



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,897

THURSDAY 15 APRIL 1999

(1R50p) 45p



## THE INFORMATION DAILY

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THEY'RE BACK AND THEY WANT YOUR CHILDREN

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# Refugees slaughtered on the roadside. But who's to blame?

BY MARCUS TANNER AND EMMA DALY in Kukes

NATO WAS thrown on to the defensive yesterday when Serbia claimed three alliance jets fired rockets at two separate refugee convoys in Kosovo, killing at least 60 Albanian civilians.

The Serbs said the jets attacked two convoys of tractors and cars transporting Albanian civilians in the west of the province between the ethnically cleansed cities of Prizren and Djakovica, and arranged for a Reuters photographer to visit the scene.

However, doubt was thrown on the Serb claims almost immediately by international observers over the border in Albania. "We are hearing that a helicopter went by and threw grenades out; were hearing reports that a MIG flew by and bombed the column," said Owen O'Sullivan an OSCE monitor in Kukes. He said he was "most surprised" that none of the wounded from the tragedy had crossed into Kukes, which is near the scene of the reported attack.

In Washington the Pentagon said it believed Nato jets had attacked a mixed military-civilian convoy and that the Serbs had retaliated for the strike by attacking the refugees. "We have had reports that Yugoslav planes may have been attacking Yugoslav convoys," the Pentagon spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, said.

Nato's spokesman, Jamie Shea, also said it was possible the Serbs had carried out the attack themselves, as they had been using low-flying aircraft in the province.

Frightened refugees who crossed the Albanian border at Morini last night confirmed that a convoy had been bombed but they did not know by whom. One man said: "We saw the destroyed tractors by the side of the road. There were at least 10 bodies. Some did not have heads or arms or legs."

He added: "There were three planes in the attack, but we did not see them well enough to know what sort they were."

His companions said they had been travelling for days, after the Serbs expelled them at gunpoint from the Istog area, and had been hiding for part of



that time in the hills. The Serb Media Centre, based in the Kosovo capital of Pristina, said the first column of about 1,000 Albanians was hit twice near the village of Meja, close to Djakovica, while the second smaller column was hit on the road between Prizren and Djakovica. "In the village of Meja, 64 people were killed and 20 wounded including three Serb policemen who were escorting the convoy," it said. "In the village of Zrze, six people were killed and 11 wounded."

The Reuters photographer filmed blood-stained bodies lying on a road near abandoned tractors. Pillows and blankets were scattered around as well as human remains.

In Brussels, the alliance admitted attacking "military targets" in the Prizren-Djakovica area but said it would need to scrutinise the film brought back by the returning planes before making further comment. It is understood that British planes were not involved.

The Prime Minister said he feared a tragedy was being manipulated by the propaganda machine of President Slobodan Milosevic. "You can't take at face value any claim made by the Serb authorities; everything they do, they use for propaganda purposes," Tony Blair said. "We go to extraordinary lengths to avoid civilian casualties at all times. The responsibility for anything that happens to people in this conflict rests with Milosevic."

Belgrade's foreign ministry had no doubts. Calling the attack a "crime against humanity", a spokesman sidestepped the question of why the Albanian civilians were refugees in the first place.

There was no official explanation of where the Serb police were "escorting" the refugees,



An ethnic Albanian boy near the Kosovo village of Meja where Serbia claimed 64 people died when a refugee convoy was hit by Nato jets Goran Tomasevic/Reuters

although it appears they were being driven out of Kosovo to Albania to join the half million Kosovars deported to neighbouring countries by the Serbs in the last three weeks.

If Nato does turn out to have massacred Kosovo civilians, it will—at least temporarily—deal a big blow to the alliance's credibility and demolish its claim to be taking the greatest possible precautions to avoid civilian casualties. It will also embarrass the guerrilla fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who have been working in close connection with Nato and supposedly informing them of potential targets in Kosovo.

Yesterday's attacks follow the earlier mistaken strike on a train near the southern Serbian town of Leskovac, in which at least 10 civilians were killed. Nato's Supreme Commander, General Wesley Clark, said it was an "uncanny accident" that a train was crossing the bridge at the very moment

Nato was trying to bomb it. He said when the pilot saw the train move on to the bridge it was already too late to hold fire.

Belgrade had the most reason to exult from the blunder. "I don't think those people in Brussels are going to get away with this," said Miroslav Popovic, a Serbian information minister. And while the alliance was put on the defensive, the spotlight was entirely taken off the Serbs' continuing campaign to ethnically cleanse the

province. Yesterday the Serbs forced another 3,000 Albanian civilians to the southern frontier with Macedonia.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, yesterday said 825,000 Kosovo refugees were outside the Serb province but had no idea how many remained inside Kosovo. "We don't know exactly how many there are because many of them have left and were forced to leave," she said.

## Support for German peace plan

GERMANY WON broad European backing last night for a peace plan for Kosovo, but not for the specific offer to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, of a 24-hour suspension of Nato air strikes if he starts pulling forces out of the province.

With Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, at an emergency summit of European leaders in Brussels, heads of government identified a new and central role for the UN at the centre of diplomatic moves and stepped up efforts to woo Russian backing for a negotiated settlement. The EU leaders also promised to examine a parallel plan, proposed by the

BY STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

French President, Jacques Chirac, that the EU should take charge of the civilian administration of Kosovo.

But the EU leaders reiterated backing for the air campaign. The specifics of the plan proposed by Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, proved contentious.

Tony Blair said military objectives had to be seen through before peace plans details could be discussed. A British source said: "You have to be resolute in a military campaign. There can be no compromise. Milosevic has to back

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down." Bonn's initiative, worked on for two weeks by Mr Fischer, includes a 24-hour halt to air strikes to give Yugoslavia a chance to start withdrawing its forces from Kosovo.

Yesterday Bonn said its proposal was consistent with the demands by Nato for hostilities to end: that Mr Milosevic should cease military actions, withdraw military, paramilitary

and police forces from Kosovo, agree to an international military presence in Kosovo, allow the return of refugees and undertake to work on the basis of the Rambouillet accord. Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, said he favoured a new UN resolution to give its blessing to the role of any peace-keeping force.

Mr Blair, when asked if the

German and Nato proposals were compatible, evaded the question: "Any proposal that we put forward has to be fully in accordance with Nato conditions and, after all, we [ie the Germans] are all members of Nato and this action has been taken for very specific reasons."

Behind the scenes, Britain was careful not to dismiss the German proposals, believing they may provide the basis for a political settlement once there are clear signs Mr Milosevic intends to back down.

Mr Annan ruled out an immediate peace mission to Belgrade but hinted that a visit at some point is likely. "We need to intensify the search for a po-

litical solution," he said. "It is not going to be easy. We have to be careful; it is very delicate."

The main difference of emphasis lies in the timing of any peace initiative and the willingness to go into detail now about the shape of a settlement package. In contrast to British reluctance to get drawn into specifics, Hubert Védrine, the French Foreign Minister, highlighted the UN's role and added: "The good solution would be to manage to define, within the framework of the Security Council, a form of international protection, allowing both for the autonomy of Kosovo and for restoring security for all Kosovo people."

### INSIDE THIS SECTION

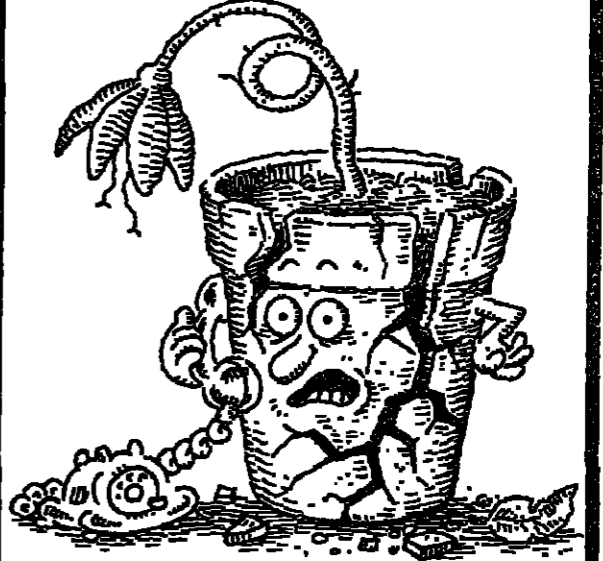
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Germany	42p 50c
Greece	42p 50c
Italy	42p 50c
Japan	42p 50c
Netherlands	42p 50c
Norway	42p 50c
Portugal	42p 50c
Spain	42p 50c
Sweden	42p 50c
Switzerland	42p 50c
Turkey	42p 50c
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"There is broad international support for a 24-hour ceasefire"  
**Guenther Verheugen,**  
**German State Secretary**

"Life is nasty, brutish and short." I think that is true for Albanians in Kosovo"  
**Nato spokesman Jamie Shea,**  
**quoting Hobbes**

"If there are any more incursions into Albanian territory we have to react"  
**Rexhep Meidani,**  
**Albanian President**

"Supplying arms to anyone involved in this conflict would be against the law"  
**George Robertson,**  
**Defence Secretary**

"Who are these soldiers who are ready to kill and not ready to die?"  
**Philippe Morillon,**  
**retired French general**

"Serbian forces are taking young men away and we don't know where"  
**Man who crossed the border yesterday**

# Yeltsin envoy has strong ties to West

## RUSSIA

By Phil Reeves in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN has softened his stance on the Balkans war by naming a former prime minister with strong ties to the West as the Kremlin's special envoy for resolving the conflict. The appointment of Viktor Chernomyrdin suggests Mr Yeltsin is moving beyond explosive denunciations of the Nato air strikes - such as his infamous "Third World War" warning - towards securing a position for Russia as mediator.

Although the majority of Russian politicians have condemned Nato, Mr Chernomyrdin has been less vocal than most. As prime minister from 1992 to 1998, he acquired a reputation as a compromiser who leans considerably more to the West than the current Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, or his government.

Moscow knows that the Kosovo war could provide it with a golden opportunity to play a starring diplomatic role, its best chance to do so since the break-up of the Soviet Union. It also knows this means ignoring domestic pressure to give unqualified support to the Serbs. Mr Yeltsin - if not his administration, with whom he has strained relations - appears to be trying to grasp that opportunity.

Russia should take the chance to end the bloodshed now, "when there are neither winners nor losers", Mr Chernomyrdin said yesterday. Moscow would step up its diplomatic efforts "in all directions" to bring an end to Nato bombing. But, in an unusually even-handed remark by Russian standards, he said that both "belligerent parties" should be brought to the negotiating table.

Although the 61-year-old is derided as a fat-cat windbag by

many Russians who resent his role in the failed market reforms, he has the advantage of good connections. He is personally acquainted with the two biggest players, Slobodan Milosevic and Bill Clinton, whom he plans to visit soon.

A gas industry baron, Mr Chernomyrdin is generally approved of by Western leaders, who see him as a member of the now exiled team of market reformers who once dominated the Russian government. The Kremlin yesterday was keen to advertise his "great political experience", and "broad international recognition".

Mr Yeltsin's move comes amid a general toning down of Russia's expressions of outrage over the Yugoslav war, after an initial burst of fury. The most striking example of its new strategy came during Tuesday's meeting in Oslo of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov. Although their talks brought little concrete progress, both sides vowed to continue talking and there was a largely co-operative mood.

This was a far cry from last week, when Boris Yeltsin was spouting angry warnings about Russia being drawn into a Third World War, while news headlines - inaccurate, as it turned out - said Moscow was re-arming nuclear missiles at Nato countries.

In recent days, Russian TV coverage of the dispute has become more balanced, and now includes accounts of the suffering of the refugees alongside reports of the damage wreaked Nato bombs. News of the Yugoslav parliament's vote to join the Russia-Belarus union was greeted coolly in Moscow; pub-

lic opinion surveys showed more than two-thirds of Russians are not interested in joining a political embrace with their troubled Slavic cousins. "All this pan-Slavic talk is complete rubbish, the invention of a perverted Russian political elite," said Andrei Piontovsky, a leading Moscow political commentator.

Even the tub-thumping nationalist mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov - who yesterday played host to British businessmen - has shown signs of backing away from his first fiery response, notably his demand that Russia should supply military aid to the Serbs. The fact that 20 per cent of the Russian population is Muslim has finally begun to filter up to the ivory towers occupied by the political ruling elite. Combine that with the country's need for Western loans and investment, and it becomes clear that Russia could not sensibly give unqualified support to Mr Milosevic - even if it wanted to.

As ever, Machiavellian Kremlin politics are at work behind the scenes. The appointment of Mr Chernomyrdin is a job by Mr Yeltsin at his Prime Minister, Mr Primakov. The latter is a former foreign minister, who coveted the chance to mediate in Yugoslavia for himself. He is also the Kremlin's second-choice premier, who got the job after Mr Yeltsin failed to persuade parliament to approve the return of Mr Chernomyrdin last year.

By restoring the veteran premier to the centre stage, Mr Yeltsin is trying to remind Mr Primakov who is in charge. But the President is a much weaker man these days, and his rival can be expected to counter-attack soon.



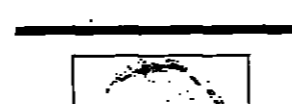
A refugee carrying her belongings through a camp at Kukes. Conditions for the 100,000 refugees in Albania are deteriorating fast. Reuters

# The civilians pay in blood

BLOOD IS beginning to spatter Nato's campaign in Yugoslavia. Just under two weeks ago, it was the blood of 26 Serb civilians in the town of Aleksinac. Then on Monday, it was the blood of 27 Serb passengers - the latest figure for fatalities - on a railway train bombed by a Nato jet.

Yesterday, up to 60 Kosovo Albanian refugees were reported torn to pieces by Nato bombs in Kosovo. That phrase "collateral damage" is beginning to sound ever more obscene.

Needless to say, the Serb government is happy to publicise these atrocities - just as Nato is ready and willing to report every atrocity committed by Serb forces in Kosovo. But their lives can now be re-



ROBERT FISK

Nato's new ground rules are playing into Serbian hands.

For it is becoming clearer that somewhere - in Washington, perhaps, or Brussels or the Aviano air base in Italy - someone has decided that Serb civilians must suffer for their country's sins. Or that their lives can now be re-

garded as forfeit if they live near a barracks or an airfield or happen to be on a passenger train.

The Serb authorities - who denied the stories told by thousands of Albanian refugees of "ethnic cleansing" at the hands of Serb forces - were quite specific in their description of the slaughter of as many as 75 Albanian refugees, first near the village of Medjan, at 1.30pm, then at Bistrazin at 3pm. The Kosovo Albanians were travelling in cars and tractors, "escorted" by at least three Serb policemen. The policemen were also killed.

Did Nato believe these were Serbs driving down the roads of southern Kosovo?

Or did they see military traffic and decide - as they did when they bombed a barracks 50 metres from a Belgrade hospital on Tuesday - that the risk of harming civilians was worth taking? That now seems to be Nato's policy in its bombardment of Yugoslavia.

Wesley Clark, the general who thought he could fight a war without ground troops, gave a deeply unsettling performance this week when he tried to explain the train massacre.

The pilot saw the train enter his bomb frame only at the last second, he said. But then - incredibly knowing the train was there - he returned to fire two more missiles at the railway bridge.

## BRIEFING: DAY 22

- Of Nato's 5,924 missions so far, only 1,687 have been bombing missions.
- South Korea will donate \$1m worth of blankets.
- State-owned Air Bosnia said yesterday it would resume flights to Germany and Turkey after a three-week closure of the country's airports.
- Volunteers at Children's Aid Direct have packed over 1,000 boxes with aid in the past four days.
- Turkey has accepted more than 10,000 refugees since the beginning of the week. Albania has taken in about three times as many refugees as Macedonia.

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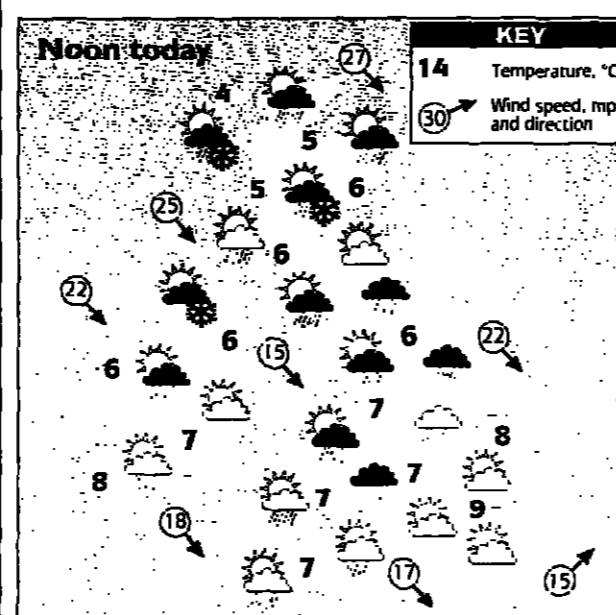
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## BRITAIN TODAY



## FORECAST

General situation: East and south-east England will have early sunshine but it will be very cold with showers moving in this afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will start cloudy with rain for a time, clearing to leave sunny spells and heavy, possibly wintry showers. Northern Ireland will be cold and blustery with heavy showers and limited sunny spells. Northern and western Scotland will also be windy with heavy and at times wintry showers but south-east Scotland should have some longer sunny breaks.

London, SE & East of England, E Anglia: Starting fine but cold. Showery rain will move across later. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). Midlands, E England: A cold start before rain arrives later this morning, clearing to leave sunny spells and heavy showers this afternoon. A moderate westerly wind, becoming north-westerly. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

Wales, NW, Cent & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Showery rain and sleet clearing to leave a cold afternoon with sunny spells and scattered wintry showers. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

Channel Is, SW England: Early rain and sleet will clear to leave most parts with sunshine and showers. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

SE Scotland, Edinburgh: Cold and breezy with isolated showers but also some decent spells of sunshine. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

NE, NW & SW Scotland, Aberdeen, Glasgow, N & W Ireland: A chilly wind will bring frequent showers, many of them of hail or sleet with snow on the mountains. A strong north-west wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).

N Ireland: Another cold day with sunny spells and scattered showers, some wintry. A moderate north-west wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

It will become less windy tomorrow but it will remain cold for April with frequent showers, many of them of hail or sleet with snow on the mountains. A strong north-west wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).

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## LIGHTING UP

Belfast	8.26pm	to	6.20am
Birmingham	8.05pm	to	6.09am
Bristol	8.06pm	to	6.14am
Glasgow	8.22pm	to	6.11am
London	7.57pm	to	6.11am
Manchester	8.09pm	to	6.08am
Newcastle	8.10pm	to	6.02am

## HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	7.26	13.5	7.49	13.7
Cork	5.43	4.5	6.02	4.5
Devonport	5.52	5.5	6.18	5.5
Dover	11.11	6.6	11.33	6.6
Dun Laoghaire	11.39	4.1	12.09	4.1
Falmouth	5.23	5.3	5.49	5.3
Greenock	-	-	1.02	3.4
Harwich	12.18	4.1	12.33	4.0
Holyhead	10.31	5.7	10.57	5.7
Hull (Albert Dock)	6.35	8.5	6.42	8.8
Kings Lynn	6.35	6.9	6.44	7.4
Lerth	2.45	5.5	2.58	5.6
Liverpool	11.26	9.6	11.53	9.7
Milford Haven	6.24	7.0	6.47	7.1
Newquay	5.17	7.0	5.39	7.1
Portsmouth	7.03	2.0	7.37	2.1
Portsmouth	11.31	4.6	11.58	4.8
Swansea	8.20	5.0	8.42	5.1
Swansea	4.18	5.5	4.26	5.6
Wick	11.30	3.5	12.06	3.5

## AIR QUALITY

	NO <sub>x</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

## SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	06.06
Sun sets:	19.57
Moon rises:	05.14
Moon sets:	19.01
New Moon:	April 16th

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

## RAIN OR SHINE...

HURRICANES and tornadoes are normally associated with America but Britain has its fair share of twisters, as a Suffolk farmer, Pamela Bowers, found out this week.

She looked out of the kitchen window of her farmhouse in Pentlow, near Sudbury, and saw her seven-year-old collie, Brena, somersaulting past, followed by the dog kennel.

The unfortunate Brena, it seems, had been hit by a tornado that swept through the farmyard, one of up to 50 twisters that strike the British mainland every year.

## YESTERDAY

Warmest: Torquay 11C (52F)
Cooldest (day): Avonmouth 4C (39F)
Wettest: Sarnoway 16.5 mm
Sunniest: Aberdeen 12.2 hrs
For 24hrs to 6pm Wednesday

## EXTREMES

	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	12.2	0.3	7	4.5
Anglesey	9.0	0.5	7	4.5
Avonmouth	4.4	1.8	4	3.9
Belfast	3.5	2.5	7	4.5
Birmingham	6.9	0.3	7	4.5
Bournemouth	4.3	0.3	7	4.5
Bristol	2.0	9.4	5	4.1
Buxton	9.9	0.3	5	4.1
Cardiff	0.9	4.3	5	4.1
Cardigan	5.4	4.3	5	4.1
Cromer	10.2	1.8	6	4.3
Edinburgh	4.6	0.3	7	4.5
Falmouth	3.1	2.5	7	4.5
Fishguard	6.7	5.8	5	4.1
Folkestone	7.4	0.3	7	4.5
Glasgow	11.0	0.3	7	4.5
Hastings	7.0	0.5	8	4.6
Howe	7.1	1.3	7	4.5
Isle of Wight	2.3	4.6	5	4.1
Jersey	4.3	4.6	8	4.6
Kendal	3.8	0.5	7	4.5
Newquay	7.2	6.6	7	4.5
Leeds	10.2	0.3	9	4.8
Lerth	7.8	1.0	7	4.5
Littlehampton	5.9	0.3	9	4.8
London	9.3	0.3	8	4.6
Lowestoft	9.3	0.3	8	4.6
Manchester	8.9	0.3	8	4.6
Margate	8.9	0.3	8	4.6
Morecambe	8.2	0.3	6	4.3
Newcastle	10.5	0.3	7	4.5
Newquay	11.0	0.3	7	4.5
Norwich	7.7	6.9	9	4.8
Oxford	5.3	1.8	8	4.6
RAF Valley	2.1	0.3	7	4.5
Scarborough	10.6	0	5	4.1
Southend	11.0	0.3	7	4.5
Southport	11.0	0.3	7	4.5
Swansea	3.7	11.7	7	4.5
Swansea	6.9	2.5	7	4.5
Torquay	5.2	4.8	11	5.2
Weymouth	4.4	6.9	8	4.6

## 24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Wednesday

Information by PA WeatherCentre

## RAIN OR SHINE...

HURRICANES and tornadoes are normally associated with America but Britain has its fair share of twisters, as a Suffolk farmer, Pamela Bowers, found out this week.

She looked out of the kitchen window of her farmhouse in Pentlow, near Sudbury, and saw her seven-year-old collie, Brena, somersaulting past, followed by the dog kennel.

The unfortunate Brena, it seems, had been hit by a tornado that swept through the farmyard, one of up to 50 twisters that strike the British mainland every year.

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## THE WORLD

### EUROPE NOON TODAY

	Key
0-10°C	11-20°C
21-30°C	Over 30°C

### THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



**THE ATLANTIC**

THE INDEPENDENT  
Thursday 15 April 1999

"Serbian forces are taking young men away and we don't know where"  
Man who crossed the border yesterday

# Editor's funeral 'a chance for us to protest'

SERB DISSENT  
By ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

THEY THREW his newspaper into Slavko Curuvija's grave, a copy of *Dnevni Telegraph* that flopped into the pit and landed with a soft thump on the editor's coffin. They threw in bunches of carnations that bounced off the lid and came to rest in the soft, dark earth around it. And as the Curuvija family stood together, a freeze of linked arms and tearful shock, a young Serb journalist from the long-banned paper uttered words that should remain printed in the conscience of every newspaperman.



Slavko Curuvija (left), the slain newspaper editor who defied Milosevic. At his funeral (above), his son Rade led the cortege, bearing a wooden marker with his father's name on it



Reuters

"They claimed ours was a vulgar paper," he said as the birds called in the chestnut trees above us. "But if it was to appear on the streets today, you could not find a single expression to embrace the events that brought us here - even if we sought all the words in a journalist's vocabulary."

"What a terrible irony that we cannot even make a full report of a newspaperman's murder. Let it be said that on Easter Sunday, 1999, between two air raid sirens, Slavko Curuvija was killed."

That is more than it got on the Belgrade evening news. For the government radio and television services last night, Curuvija's funeral - like his murder - was a non-event. While the brave thousand turned up for his last journey - Yugoslav journalists, academics, a social gallery of the intellectual left with an eye on the

photographers who might be taking pictures for the state security police - the people of Yugoslavia heard only of the state visit of President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus who came to offer his country's moral (but definitely not military) support for President Milosevic.

Even as we waited outside the memorial chapel of the Zvezdara cemetery, opposite the graveyard of the martyrs of Belgrade's 1944 liberation, the All Clear had sounded, a mournful howl that soon merged into the off-tune trombone and drum funeral march.

Curuvija had been shot on the Orthodox Easter Day, four days ago, and his family, standing round the flower-heaped coffin, were shaking hands as if they didn't understand who

was in the wooden box: his son, Rade, crop-haired in a black tie-less shirt and high-collared dark jacket, his mother, Cuke, eyes black with incomprehension, his daughter, Jelena, long brown hair over the shoulders of a smart brown jacket, a beautiful young woman who would stand beside the grave a few minutes later, staring at the mound of flowers without any sign of emotion.

Who killed him? The question was more powerful yesterday than it was the afternoon when two ski-masked gunmen fired 11 bullets into Slavko Curuvija outside his apartment block. Former police agent, ex-friend of the Milosevic family, a man who had suggested that only bombing might bring the president to his senses, he had critics as well as friends at his

funeral. "He was a dissident from the Family," a university lecturer muttered to us. "This was sheer revenge. I didn't know him. But his funeral was a chance for us to protest."

So why only a few hundred mourners, I asked? He gave me a look of dark, suppressed fury. "It took a lot of courage to come here," he snapped. "You obviously don't know what it's like to live in a dictatorship. Others were more outspoken. You died at the hands of Serbs - this was premeditated," an agitated, middle-aged man shouted as the coffin lay on a concrete slab beside the grave.

Then, after five sweating municipal gravediggers in blue overalls and rubber gloves lowered the box into the pit with ropes, another man, in sunglasses, even more frightened,

spoke out hurriedly. "Here sleeps a Serb and the honour of Serbia," he cried. "You didn't die by a Serbian hand but by the hand of a traitor."

In the last editorial before his paper was taken off the streets in October, Curuvija - a tough, moneyed, arrogant man according to colleagues, with a doubtful past in the police - had urged President Milosevic to throw out the extreme nationalists in his coalition, the likes of Vojislav Seselj whose White Eagles militia butchered their way through Bosnia in 1992 and who has cemented Yugoslavia into the union of Russia and Belarus. No wonder the mourners yesterday felt they were brave to attend. Who will be next to fill a place in the cemetery?

There was no cross at Curuvija's grave and the five-

angled wooden marker that Rade carried in front of his father's funeral cortege bore only the words "Slavko Curuvija 1949-1999" and the symbol of crossed quill pens. There were tulips and daffodils and geraniums and lilies and wreaths from *Radio Index* (closed by Milosevic) and the old *Radio B-92* (closed by Milosevic) and from the staff of his newspapers, *Dnevni Telegraph* and *Europrijin* (closed by Milosevic).

A lady watching the cortege had her own very personal reasons for turning up to the funeral. Sejenah had sat close to Curuvija the last time he spoke in public - about the need for a free press in Yugoslavia - at Pancevo on 16 March. "He said he couldn't last for a long time, so we asked for his prediction for possible future change. He

said to us: 'What is needed is a single spark that will stimulate the people in a democratic direction'. We were so sure he would end up going to prison that we gave Mr Curuvija a present of two books - the poetry and prose of young Yugoslav authors - which we said he could read in his prison cell. He seemed fine, he was quite normal. None of us could have imagined what would happen."

For half an hour after the grave had been closed, the Curuvija family sat on a neighbouring tombstone and looked at the flowers. Jelena remained standing in her brown dress, her face expressionless, taking the weight of Cuke's head on her shoulder. Later, she sat with her brother, arms wrapped round her knees, still staring at the grave of her father. There

were gestures of sympathy from those who fear for Yugoslavia's political future. The wife of Vuk Draskovic - the federal vice-president and leader of the Serbian Renewal Party - was among the mourners, with the mayor of Belgrade, Dragoslav Mihailovic, grandson of the wartime Chetnik leader executed by Tito.

But it was the university lecturer too frightened to give his name, the man who had understood Curuvija's dangerous predicament as an enemy of the Family, who uttered the most frightening comment.

"In a war, it's usually truth that is the first victim," he said to me as we left the cemetery. "Here, the situation is unusual. Here, the first victim of Nato's bombing was democracy in Serbia."

## Truth may prove most useful propaganda tool

ANALYSIS  
By RUPERT CORNWELL



The Nato spokesman Jamie Shea briefs the press; a fog of confusion surrounds the war's aims

EVEN IN war, the first casualty - just occasionally - need not be the truth. Sometimes, indeed, there is no alternative to the truth. That was the lesson of Nato's bombing of the Serb train on Monday in which 10 civilians died.

Assuming allied planes were mistakenly responsible for yesterday's far deadlier attack on a refugee convoy in southern Kosovo, the lesson will be even more bitter.

In this war, as in every war, propaganda is a vital weapon. It is vital for the Western democracies, where strategies ultimately depend on public opinion - but it is also vital for Belgrade. By fast public relations footwork, Nato has neutralised the train disaster. If confirmed, the slaughter of refugees - 70 ethnic Albanians, according to the Serbs - will be far harder to cope with.

Convince the public the cause is just, like the enemy to Hitler, sanitise every nastiness perpetrated by your side, and claim you are firmly on the way to victory - these are the rules of the game. Both sides have been faithfully playing them. Until the train on the bridge at Leskovac.

The affair could have been a PR disaster, proof of how the allies in their frustration at their failure to land a knockout blow to the Milosevic military machine were sinking to terror bombing of helpless civilians. Prevarication, or pretending the train was a legitimate military target, would have made matters even worse.

Instead, we witnessed a rare and deliberate show of honesty. It was an "unfortunate accident... we are all very sorry for it," Nato's supreme commander, General Wesley Clark, said as the press was shown a full cockpit video of the incident. The pilot, it transpired, had fired not one bomb, but two; the second after he knew he had hit a train. Quite why that second attack happened is unclear. But we basically know what happened, and few more ques-

tions need to be asked. If allied planes hit the refugee convoy near Djakovica, we must brace for a far more harrowing mea culpa from Nato - and, conceivably, a sea change in public attitudes to the air war.

Belgrade's forays into the propaganda war have been more comic than threatening: "88 Nato men dead and 32 planes lost", ran a front-page headline last week in the Greek daily *Athinaiki*, gleefully reported by the official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug. News indeed to warm Serb hearts, but somewhat at variance with the one verified loss of an F-117.

Indeed, two mysteries of this strangest of wars are the tiny scale of Nato losses (one aircraft, and as far as can be ascertained, not a single life - astonishing given the advance publicity about Serb air defence capabilities) and the small civilian death toll in Serbia caused by the bombing - until yesterday, at least, under 100. Had there been more, we would certainly have known.

Then there have been the tales put out by the Serbian Information Ministry of "columns" of deserters from the Nato force stationed in Yugoslavia, donning civilian

clothes and streaming into Greece and Bulgaria, and of conscience-stricken Norwegian pilots who refused to take part in the air attack, and returned home to the cheers of their countrymen. For those who dare criticise, there may be the fate of Slavko Curuvija, the independent newspaper owner shot dead outside his Belgrade apartment on Sunday.

Nato, of course, propagates its own brand of wishful thinking. Early on, we were told of Kosovo Albanian leaders who had been murdered. It transpired they had not and Nato, admittedly, retracted the claim. On Sunday, its spokesmen were claiming to detect fissures in the Yugoslav army's high command over President Milosevic's policy in Kosovo. The next day, despite every sign that the war is solidifying support for Milosevic, the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, was virtually predicting a coup.

But these are small errors, set against the giant shadow cast over everything the allies say by the miscalculation with which the war started. A few days, they said, just a handful of cruise missiles, before the dictator came to his senses. "We always knew this would

be a long haul," Nato now insists. If so, then everything it implied, if not said aloud, before 24 March was nonsense. But did not World War One begin with the blithe conviction the boys would be home for Christmas?

So far, Western public opinion doubts about the air war strategy have been submerged by the flood of horror stories of pillage, rape and murder committed by the Serbs. But these stories, too, could in turn be submerged by the horror of what apparently happened near the Kosovo town of Djakovica.

For the Serbs, the carnage was a propaganda coup: a "crime against humanity" according to the Foreign Ministry in Belgrade - exactly the language used by Nato leaders to describe Mr Milosevic's tactics.

The attack strikes at the heart of the weakness of Nato's presentation of the war - not lies over daily events, but the fog of confusion and contradictions surrounding the war's ends. Suddenly Kosovo is acquiring the reek of Vietnam.

"We will win the war," say Blair, Clinton *et al* day after successive day of bombing targets that never seem to be destroyed the first time around. Ah, but the bombing is working, they insist, only to order another 300 aircraft to finish the job - and risk more disasters similar to yesterday's. Defying, if not the truth, at least elementary common sense, they cling to the Rambouillet formula that Kosovo remains part of Yugoslavia even after the war.

Do they really think it can? Do they really believe that having uprooted more than one million Kosovo Albanians, and sent 500,000 of them fleeing in terror, Mr Milosevic will meekly admit the folly of his ways and let them back in?

Public opinion is already asking these questions. Sooner or later, the gap between the demonisation of Milosevic and the refusal to send in a single ground soldier after him will become too wide for the most artful propagandist to bridge.

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Albanians from Kosovo waiting yesterday to go to Braze refugee camp after crossing into Blace, Macedonia. Pawel Kopczynski/Reuters



## Thousands more head for Macedonia

NATO FORCES, humanitarian agencies and the government of Macedonia were preparing last night for another massive influx of refugees into the tiny Balkan country, amid signs that Slobodan Milosevic was finally allowing homeless Albanian refugees trapped inside Kosovo to make their escape.

Plans to hand over the running of Macedonian refugee camps from Nato forces to

international humanitarian agencies were under review after reports from Kosovo that as many as 650,000 refugees might be moving towards the border. Such an exodus would severely stretch even Nato and the United Nations, and would contribute to growing tension within Macedonia.

After several days of calm at the Macedonia-Kosovo border, an estimated 3,000 refugees

crossed yesterday, and were last night on buses at the border crossing of Blace waiting to be transported to the nearby British-run camp at Braze. Reports from inside Kosovo suggested that having sealed off the routes out of the province last week, the Serbian army was now allowing refugees out by train and on foot.

Most of yesterday's arrivals came from the town of Urose-

vac and the surrounding area, but had been living rough in the hills and woods for more than two weeks, having been driven out of their homes by Serb forces. Refugees from Kacanik, 10 miles over the border, said that more than 70 houses had been set on fire by Serb police

and paramilitaries.

"I ran into the mountains and lived there for 15 days," said Sali Sopo, a motel owner from Urosevac, who said he was singled out for persecution because he had previously let his house to observers from the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in

Europe (OSCE). "The soldiers came into the town and said that anyone who helped the OSCE would be killed. I'm lucky to be here alive."

A British member of the OSCE's mission in the Macedonian capital, Skopje, who is in regular contact by satellite telephone with commanders in the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), said their estimates of the number of refugees heading for the border vary from 200,000 to as many as 650,000. He said: "God alone knows what Milosevic's overall plan is, but you can't discount the idea that he's using them as a resource blocking the flow of refugees and then letting people out through the border to hamper the international community, so that everyone's focusing on the refugees rather than, say, a land invasion."

At the nearby Braze refugee camp, hundreds of children marched around the 2,000 tents, chanting "Nato! Nato!" and "We will give up our lives, but we will never give up Kosovo!" Brigadier Tim Cross, of the UK Logistics Brigade, said they were looking at ways of expanding the huge camp, which already houses 25,000 people. Plans to hand over administration to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees were under review after the latest reports. "This is a new situation that we're looking at and if we're asked to help, we'll help," said Brigadier Cross.

Meanwhile the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned that the forced eviction of farmers would devastate an area which was already suffering from a poor harvest. "Thousands of farms have been destroyed, left abandoned or untended, whilst food distribution has been constrained

due to difficulties in movement," the FAO said in a Special Alert released from its Rome headquarters.

"The food situation... is expected to deteriorate sharply and the crisis will have profound long-term food security implications."

The executive director of the UN's World Food Programme, Catherine Bertini, visited Braze yesterday. "There's no question that for the people in Kosovo this is an emergency - an emergency for shelter, an emergency for personal safety and an emergency for food."

Relief at large numbers of refugees being allowed out of Kosovo would be tempered by international concern about the effect of another wave of refugees on the fragile ethnic mix in Macedonia, where an Albanian minority co-exists uneasily with Macedonian Serbs.

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## Albanians flee as war crosses border

### CONFLICT SPREADS

BY EMMA DALY in Tropoje

BETWEEN THE villages of Padesh and Koshare, on Albania's rugged northern border, an undeclared border war is under way between the Yugoslav army and Kosovars sheltering in the mother country.

The thunder of artillery reverberated yesterday across the cloud-covered mountains north of the nearby town of Bajram Curri, as locals from the villages of Tropoje and Gegaj packed up and moved out for fear of another Serbian incursion, after Tuesday's attack on the Kamenica border post.

Five soldiers from the Kosovo Liberation Army have been killed in the fighting over the past 48 hours and at least two wounded. A doctor at the morgue in Bajram Curri said four of the bodies had been recovered from Serbian territory.

One of the wounded, Qamil Jaspi, who joined the KLA 11 months ago, said he and his comrade Demush Gaxateri were injured when a mortar shell crashed into the village of Padesh, on the Albanian side of the border. "There was no fight-

ing at that time. We were helping an Albanian family move to a safer place" when the shell exploded near by, he explained.

Black smoke rose from the village of Kamenica yesterday, and every few minutes came the rumble of another shell landing over the ridge.

At a muddy crossroads above the village of Tropoje, Sosa Dautaj emerged from a hollow in the red earth bank bordering the road. It turned out to be the entrance tunnel to a small bunker, one of the thousands of concrete mushrooms built under the paranoid rule of Albania's former dictator Enver Hoxha. Six people are staying there now, the only light coming from a firing slit.

"We move only when they stop bombing and we only go out for water and bread," Mrs Dautaj said. She moved out of the family home in Tropoje when it was hit by a shell.

Traffic on the road consisted of KLA tractor-trailers driven down empty and brought back full - the loads were covered with blankets, but ap-

peared to include wooden ammunition boxes.

Fighting in the area does not yet involve the Albanian army, although border police under Yugoslav attack in Kamenica returned fire. And despite Serbian claims to the contrary, monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe say the KLA is operating without Albanian assistance, logistical or military.

Co-operation between the two forces "is non-existent", said Pier Gengrip, chief of the OSCE mission in Bajram Curri. However, the KLA has the run of the place and is busy training hundreds of recruits. The Yugoslav army has mined huge areas of the frontier.

"My opinion is that they would like to have a cordon sanitaire, not only on the Kosovo side but also to have something similar along the Albanian side," Mr Gengrip said. The question is whether Tirana can tolerate such a policy or will feel compelled to send troops, heavy weapons or aircraft into battle alongside the rebels.

## Readers raise over £500,000

READERS of *The Independent* have donated more than £500,000 to help the refugees of Kosovo.

As money continues to pour in, those co-ordinating the appeal welcomed the contributions. "It really is a fantastic effort. We are delighted by the efforts of your readers," said a spokesman for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). "The average amount from your readers seems to be around £50."

The committee is co-ordinating a series of appeals for the refugees of Kosovo, including that of *The Independent*. The money will be used to pay for food, blankets, first aid and emergency shelters. It will also help to pay for sanitation and water purification equipment. More than 500,000 Kosovo

### HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a cheque or postal order to:

### Independent Kosovo Appeal

Disasters Emergency Committee  
PO Box 2710  
London W1A 5AD  
Cheques payable to

### KOSOVO APPEAL

Call: 0990 22 22 33 to make a telephoned credit card donation

Albanian refugees have fled or been forced from their homes as a result of Serb ethnic cleansing of the province and are now in neighbouring Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, or have been flown to countries in the West including Turkey, Norway and Sweden.

### TIMETABLE:

#### DAY 22

**Wednesday 14 April**  
**11.50am:** Arkan, the Serb militia leader, is scouring jails of Serbia for recruits for ethnic cleansing campaign.  
**2pm:** The Kosovo Liberation Army's Kosovapress news agency reports that more than 1,000 Kosovo Albanians have been killed by "Serbian terrorist forces" over the past four days in the central Drenica region.  
**4pm:** Serbs claim to have shot down unmanned German reconnaissance plane over Kosovo.  
**4.10pm:** At least 64 Kosovar refugees killed by Nato air strike on a bridge at Djakovica in southern Kosovo, claim Serbs.

# Stormont stalemate as rivals bicker

ANOTHER DIFFICULT day in the Northern Ireland talks on arms decommissioning at Stormont yesterday led to the postponement of today's possible intervention by Tony Blair and the Irish premier, Bertie Ahern.

The two prime ministers are believed to be on stand-by to travel to Belfast if their presence would help clinch a deal, but yesterday brought no new signs of any breakthrough on

By DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

the arms issue. They may join proceedings next week if things improve.

Yesterday's discussions - like the previous day's talks - were devoted more to the venting of complaints than the production of any constructive new ideas. But the exchanges were said to have been reasonably even-tempered.

The current talks seem destined, like so many other Belfast negotiating sessions, to spend some days going through apparently unproductive wrangling before the real crunch is reached. A source said: "There's no point in forcing the pace if the parties are not ready yet to do business."

The atmosphere in the talks was not helped by some hard-line rhetoric delivered to the media at Stormont. The Sinn

Fein president, Gerry Adams, challenged both the British and Irish governments to state publicly whether they had abandoned the Good Friday Agreement in favour of the draft declaration which emerged from the Hillsborough talks at the start of this month.

He said: "Almost two million people voted last year for the Good Friday Agreement. They are entitled to know the gov-

ernments' intentions." Republicans are much in favour of the Good Friday document, which was vague on decommissioning, and much against the draft declaration, which laid down that it was a necessity.

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, quickly responded that the Agreement was the fundamental backdrop defining the activities of the governments. She declared: "It is not a case

of one against the other. One is a fundamental document while the other is a means of trying to find a way forward."

During the day, some minor parties which had been assumed to be in support of the draft declaration were critical of it, and of the way the Government had allegedly issued it without sufficient consultation.

Minor loyalist parties which represent major loyalist para-

military organisations have already rejected it.

All this has introduced a certain fluidity into the situation, which some days ago appeared to be a case of Sinn Fein versus the rest. Support for the declaration now seems by no means as widespread as had been thought, though the Ulster Unionists are generally supportive.

That party yesterday rebuked the loyalists for adopting

a position close to that of Sinn Fein, and for allegedly uttering implicit threats.

The Ulster Unionist negotiator Reg Empey said: "We're getting further intimidation and threats, and that's coming regrettably both from republican and loyalist sources, whose political ambitions and interests appear to have coincided in the last few days with the joint rejection of the Hillsborough declaration."

## Passengers injured in 10 seconds of jet terror

A MAN ended up embedded in the ceiling of an aircraft as hundreds of passengers, including the Prime Minister's daughter, endured a terrifying bout of turbulence over the Pacific Ocean.

Kathryn Blair, aged 11, was among 235 passengers on a British Airways Boeing 747 flying from Australia to Heathrow. Fifty minutes before a scheduled touchdown in Singapore, it hit "clear air turbulence" - leading to 10 terrifying seconds in which the plane fell 300ft from its cruising altitude of 37,000ft, throwing passengers and cabin crew from their seats. In the chaos, one man's wrist was broken and a woman suffered a broken rib, while 30 other people were injured.

Though Ms Blair was not reported to be hurt, the flight was delayed for several hours in Singapore while people were treated. The flight arrived safely in London yesterday morning.

"There were a lot of people flying around the cabin," said Barry White, from Brisbane, who was saved from injury by his fastened seatbelt. "Someone went through the panel of the ceiling. All I could see were a pair of legs hanging out."

By KATE WATSON-SMITH  
AND CHARLES ARTHUR

Marlene and Tony Newton, from Tiverton, Devon, who were returning from a two-month holiday in Brisbane with their two children, said they were just about to receive their dinner when abruptly the plane fell in the sky.

Mrs Newton said: "We had just experienced a touch of turbulence then the aircraft just dropped. A steward who was pushing his trolley slammed into the overhead lockers, food and drink flew everywhere. People were hurt out of their seats. It was just terrifying. Even the crew looked terrified."

The couple's 10-year-old son, Joshua, said he never wanted to fly again.

Clear air turbulence is invisible and cannot be detected by radar. It results from a severe change in wind speed and direction of as much as 100mph, either up, down, or horizontally. As the aircraft falls, objects in the cabin are left behind - so they appear to shoot upwards, like being in a falling lift. Though the plane is safe, the



A passenger from the turbulence-hit British Airways flight arriving in Heathrow yesterday, wearing a surgical collar

principal risk to passengers and crew is of slamming into overhead lockers, and from flying objects.

The causes of clear air turbulence are unknown, though distant thunderstorms or the passage of jet planes on the same route may contribute.

Between 1981 and 1996 there were 252 such incidents

thought serious enough to report - as yesterday's one was - though most are barely noticed by the passengers. A British Airways spokesman said yesterday: "The pilots would have had no warning."

Most cases of clear air turbulence are not serious, and the pilot usually retains control. But some are lethal. In 1966, a

BOAC Boeing 707 crashed with the loss of all 124 people on board when in a freak accident it was trapped in the lee of Mount Fuji.

In December 1997 one woman died of head injuries and 110 people, including nine flight crew, were injured when a United Airlines Boeing 747 fell 1,000ft from its cruising altitude

of 33,000ft between Tokyo and Honolulu.

In the 252 incidents between 1981 and 1996, two passengers died, 63 had serious injuries and 863 minor ones. Those who died were not wearing seatbelts, although the warning sign was lit. Only two of those seriously injured wore seatbelts. A BA spokeswoman said:

"Keeping your seatbelt on all the time that you are seated is one factor and our view is that it is better to be buckled in all the time whatever the circumstances."

Yesterday Downing Street officials said Ms Blair had been travelling unescorted back from a holiday in Australia with a friend.

## Protein find may conquer jet lag

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

SCIENTISTS ARE closer to eradicating jet lag by finding a timing mechanism that sets the body's biological clock.

Jet lag occurs when the body clock is upset by crossing time zones. Researchers hope the discovery may lead to a way of resetting the internal clocks of airline passengers.

A team from Erasmus University in the Netherlands and Tohoku University in Japan say two body proteins, Cry-1 and Cry-2, appear to be affected by the length of day and night.

Examination of human and mouse DNA found both proteins contained genes similar to those in plants known to help control the opening and closing of leaves in a 24-hour cycle.

Research results in the journal Nature showed when mice lacked Cry-1 their body clocks ran an hour faster - determined by activity on a running wheel over 24 hours in darkness. With Cry-2 was missing, the body clock ran an hour slower. When mice lacking both proteins were exposed to total darkness for 24 hours a day, their clocks failed, showing no cycle of rest and activity displayed by normal mice.

Drugs designed to affect or interfere with the function of the proteins may eventually help overcome jet lag.

1998 50 1999

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

## Rights are Coming Home

The impact of the incorporation of The European Convention on Human Rights into UK Law

Thursday 22nd April 1999 • Barbican Centre, London EC2

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**Anne Owers**  
Director, Justice

**John Wadham**  
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**Professor Geoff Gilbert**  
Director of Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

**Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede**  
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**Rt Hon Lord Wakeham**  
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**Professor Robert Hazell**  
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**Mike Walker**  
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## Scotsman is flying back into service

BY PETER WOODMAN

THE FLYING SCOTSMAN is to steam back into business after a three-year, £1m restoration programme, it was announced yesterday.

The 160-ton locomotive will leave London King's Cross on 4 July on a £350-per-ticket trip to York - the start of regular, main line charter services.

Built in 1923, the Flying Scotsman ran on the London and North Eastern Railway and then on British Rail, for 40 years. Its restoration was undertaken by the pharmaceutical entrepreneur, Tony Marchington, who bought the loco for £1.5m in 1996.

It ran about two million miles in service before being withdrawn in 1963 and being taken over by a succession of private owners running charter services, including the pop impresario Pete Waterman.



The now-legendary Flying Scotsman in 1929, six years after it was built

Hulton Getty

## Frontline role for schools in racism battle

LESSONS ARE to be introduced in school to teach children that it is "not British" to be racist. Pupils will be taught the benefits of living in a multicultural society as part of the "citizenship" lessons that are to form part of the National Curriculum.

The Home Office minister Mike O'Brien said the work would involve the parents of teenagers who show racist tendencies. Schools will also be encouraged to carry out "early intervention" initiatives to try to limit racist indoctrination at home. Racists will also be forced to pay reparations to the victims of their attacks.

Mr O'Brien said the problem of racism among some young

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

whites had been starkly illustrated by the covert police film of the five men suspected of killing the black teenager Stephen Lawrence and the account of their actions in Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's report into the murder.

He said: "For many white people the report made deeply shocking reading. Perhaps some people needed to be shocked to get a passing idea of what it's like to be black or Asian in Britain."

Mr O'Brien, who pointed out that not all racists were white, and that young people as a whole were increasingly anti-racist, said the programme could only succeed with the support of institutions. "It's going to be a long-term struggle. For the impact on white youth, it is important that we have more people from ethnic minorities in positions of authority in our society."

But the Home Office has been encouraged by the results of a series of projects aimed at challenging racism. In Bermondsey, south London, the National Youth Agency has backed a scheme which involves directly confronting known racist gangs and ques-

tioning them about their attitudes. The project, which included taking young people out of their predominantly white neighbourhood to mix with those from more ethnically diverse areas, led to a reduction in racist attacks in the area.

Meanwhile the father of Stephen Lawrence reacted angrily yesterday to the news that Gary Dobson, one of the five men suspected of killing his son, will take part in a radio phone-in programme today. Neville Lawrence said he was upset that Talk Radio was proceeding with the programme despite the family's opposition to the decision by ITV to broadcast interviews with the five suspects on last Thursday's *Tonight* programme.

"In the same way that we wanted nothing to do with the *Tonight* programme we want nothing to do with this... I think [Talk Radio] have been completely insensitive and unconcerned about our feelings and our views."

A spokeswoman for Talk Radio said: "We decided it was a matter that was in the public interest and would give our listeners the first chance to speak to somebody involved in the case." She said Mr Dobson had approached the station with the idea and he was not being paid.



Jack Straw yesterday: 'Setting targets - not quotas'

## Hire more blacks, Straw tells police

BY IAN BURRELL

JACK STRAW challenged police yesterday to recruit more than 8,000 black and Asian officers in the next decade. The Home Secretary set a target for each force in England and Wales and said he hoped every force would reflect the racial make-up of the area it served.

The Metropolitan Police has been told it should have 5,662 officers from ethnic minorities, the highest target set. In the West Midlands, the figure is 862, with 356 in Greater Manchester and 345 in West Yorkshire.

But Mr Straw told a conference in Southampton that even forces in areas with less than 1 per cent ethnic minority population would be expected to have at least 1 per cent of their officers from ethnic minorities.

Only four forces were declared "on target" for their ethnic minority recruitment - Gwent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk. Nationally, only about 2 per cent of police officers come from ethnic minorities although the minorities are 7 per cent of the population.

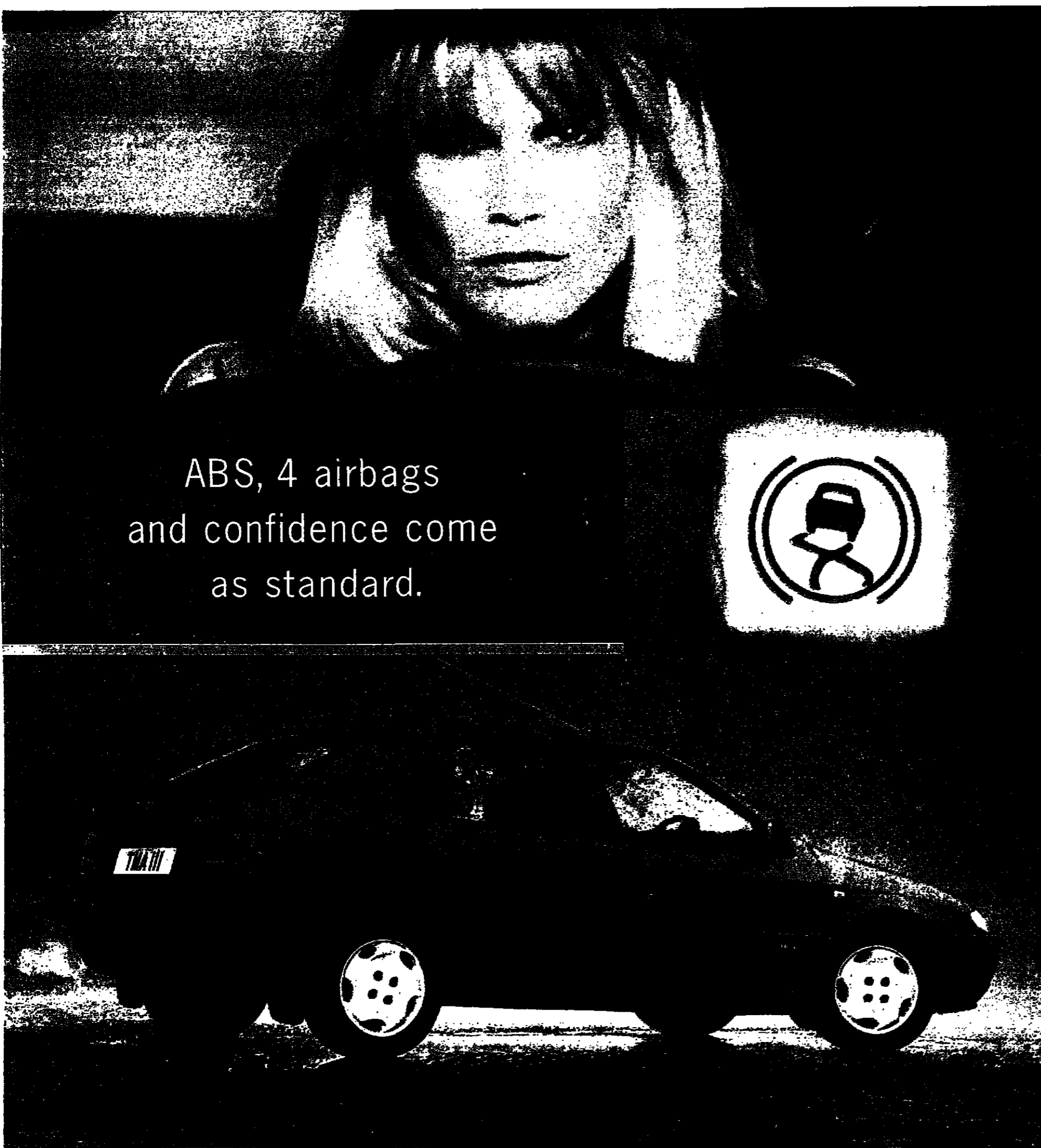
Home Office research published to coincide with the conference, on recruitment, retention and progression of Black and Asian police officers, found "institutional racism" was blighting the

careers of ethnic minority officers. Black and Asian officers were leaving the force at double the rate of whites. Two or three times as many black and Asian officers were dismissed as whites. Asian officers took five months longer, on average, to be made sergeants, black officers 18 months longer. Black officers take 23 months longer to become inspectors, Asian officers 16 months.

There are 2,191 black and Asian constables out of 97,671 officers at that rank and only six black and Asian superintendents among 1,237.

Mr Straw said he was setting targets and not quotas and there was no question of ethnic minority officers being promoted on anything but merit.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, said he warmly embraced the targets set for the Met and said it was "catch-up time" for the whole of the police service. The Met has been told to increase the number of ethnic minority officers from 865, which is 3.3 per cent of the force, to 5,662 to bring it in line with the 25 per cent ethnic minority population of the area it serves.



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# Access rights 'put children in danger'

**BRITISH COURTS** are putting thousands of children's lives at risk by forcing them to see violent fathers against their wishes, according to a study.

The findings showed that more than half of children from violent relationships did not want to continue seeing their fathers after their parents had separated, but three-quarters of them were forced to do so by the courts. Experts believe that continued contact with a violent father can harm already vulnerable children physically and emotionally.

"Children who have witnessed domestic violence suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders, nightmares and extreme anxiety. If contact is forced on the child, they might not only be physically at risk from their father but also risk witnessing continuing domestic abuse to the mother," said Dr Lorraine Radford, senior lecturer in social policy at the Roehampton Institute in London, who is a specialist on contact issues with violent families.

"We are not looking at the rights of the father but the rights of the child. A child can only benefit from seeing his father if the contact is going to be non-abusive."

In the biggest study on contact and domestic violence in



David Bailey launching his photographic exhibition 'The Birth of Cool' at the Barbican Centre in London. It runs until 27 June Tom Craig

## Failing colleges may be taken over

**FAILING COLLEGES** could be closed down and reopened with new management under plans being considered by ministers in response to a damning report into one of Britain's largest colleges.

Baroness Blackstone, an Education minister, said she was considering the tough powers

abroad by the principal, Martin Jenkins, and his deputy, Jenny Dolphin. Auditors found the college had claimed for funding for 60-hour courses that lasted one hour. In other cases, the college claimed funding for Scottish students who are not eligible for grants in England. Internal audits were unsatisfactory in one in five colleges.

Lady Blackstone said: "These disturbing reports show why it is essential that we have a rigorous process of inspection in further education, better accountability and a clear policy to tackle failure. We are determined that such abuses will be driven out of the system, with those who perpetrate them."

The Halton governors accepted responsibility for the problems yesterday, but said: "It remains a matter of very real concern to the board that both independent internal and external audits over a number of years failed to raise any questions of irregularities."

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# Genetic blueprint to predict illness

SCIENTISTS HAVE begun a project to usher in an era of "personalised" medicine, where a patient's genetic blueprint is used to predict and treat illnesses with tailor-made drugs.

The scheme, likely to revolutionise medicine, is the fruit of an unprecedented alliance between the biggest multinational drug companies and the world's leading centres of academic excellence.

The combined resources of a consortium of 10 pharmaceutical firms and five research institutes will be used to find the genetic "signposts" that will enable doctors to diagnose a patient's inherited predispositions to diseases.

The consortium has vowed to publish details of the signposts as and when they are found, to prevent smaller companies from patenting the same discoveries and restricting research. Genset, one company in

By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

Paris, said it has already discovered two genetic traits that predispose people to prostate cancer and is offering them for sale at £30m.

It is envisaged that the work will be the first practical spin-off of the multi-billion-pound effort to unravel man's entire genetic blueprint - the human genome project - which is expected to publish its first draft "map" next year.

In the first two years of the research effort, £28m will be spent on identifying 300,000 genetic signposts in human DNA, roughly half of which will be mapped precisely to diagnose and understand the causes of major illnesses, ranging from asthma and diabetes to cancer and heart disease.

The Wellcome Trust, Britain's biggest medical research

charity, is spearheading the initiative in conjunction with four of America's most prestigious genetics centres - the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Stanford Human Genome Center in California and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York.

The group of 10 drug companies includes Britain's Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and AstraZeneca, as well as Bayer, Hoechst, Hoffmann-La Roche, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, Pfizer and Searle.

The aim of the project is to identify the smallest genetic variations that distinguish one person from another, known technically as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). There is one SNP in every 1,000 letters in the 3 billion-letter genetic code of humans,

resulting in more than one million SNPs that typically distinguish one individual from another.

Scientists believe SNPs are the signposts of disease and determine why some people develop serious illnesses while others do not, despite being exposed to the same environmental risk factors.

Michael Morgan, of the Wellcome Trust, said the SNP map would also identify which drugs would work well with minimum side-effects. "The expectation is that most of the common diseases have a major genetic basis. The question is how do you determine the difference," he said.

Arthur Holden, the head of SNP Consortium Ltd, said all the information gathered to make the SNP map will be published openly and not patented.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Sotheby's in New York is selling some of the most prized film posters tomorrow. Highlights include an original poster for 'King Kong' (est. £94,000), the only known copy of 'Robin Hood' (£11,250) and 'African Queen' (£750)

## Lennon voted as greatest singer in Sixties-led poll

By PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

AS THE millennium approaches, lists of everything are appearing. Yesterday, pop singers had their turn with the publication of a list of the top 100 singers of "all time". John Lennon topped the list, followed by Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin.

The music magazine *Mojo* published the list after a poll of 1,000 of its readers. True to the baby-boomer profile of the magazine's readership, the list is dominated by singers from the Sixties. The only singers from the Nineties are Tori Amos, 75th, Portishead's Beth Gibbons at 77th, Liam Gallagher, 88th, and Kurt Cobain, 98th.

Croaky-voiced white singers such as Bob Dylan (5) and Tom Waits (25) came ahead of the more mellifluous Nat King Cole (52) and Al Green (88). "The readers chose a more white selection of singers than did the singers themselves when we had a poll of 175 of them last year," said the editor, Matt Snow. "Blues and soul singers generally did better and Aretha Franklin came out on top."

But Snow rebuffed the suggestion that it was The Beatles' popularity rather than his



John Lennon: 'More than just a songwriter'

singing which put Lennon at the top of the list. "Actually, I think the readers made a good judgement call. He was more than just a songwriter... Some of Lennon's more mundane solo numbers were lifted by the passionate nature of his singing."

But inevitably when you produce a top 100, people disagree with the pecking order. "John Lennon you can blame on Noel Gallagher," said Steve Sutherland, the editor of a rival music magazine, NME. "Before Gallagher no one was that bothered about The Beatles anymore."

He said lists of artists could be fun, but are ultimately flawed: "You cannot compare Bing Crosby to Lennon... Music is just too subjective."

### TOP 100 SINGERS OF 'ALL TIME'

- |                      |                     |                    |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 John Lennon        | 34 Billie Holiday   | 66 Bobby Darin     |
| 2 Elvis Presley      | 35 Smokey Robinson  | 67 Bob Marley      |
| 3 Aretha Franklin    | 36 Jeff Buckley     | 68 John Martyn     |
| 4 Frank Sinatra      | 37 Ray Davies       | 69 Harry Nilsson   |
| 5 Bob Dylan          | 38 James Taylor     | 70 Charlie Rich    |
| 6 Roy Orbison        | 39 Neil Young       | 71 James Brown     |
| 7 Paul McCartney     | 40 Tim Buckley      | 72 Gram Parsons    |
| 8 Otis Redding       | 41 Buddy Holly      | 73 Janis Joplin    |
| 9 Robert Plant       | 42 Stevie Wonder    | 74 Robert Wyatt    |
| 10 Ray Charles       | 43 Emmylou Harris   | 75 Tori Amos       |
| 11 Van Morrison      | 44 Little Richard   | 76 Nick Drake      |
| 12 Marvin Gaye       | 45 Johnny Cash      | 77 Beth Gibbons    |
| 13 David Bowie       | 46 kd Lang          | 78 Joan Baez       |
| 14 Dusty Springfield | 47 Willie Nelson    | 79 Ian Curtis      |
| 15 Sandy Denny       | 48 Kate Bush        | 80 Donald Fagen    |
| 16 Mick Jagger       | 49 Peter Green      | 81 Patti Smith     |
| 17 Sam Cooke         | 50 Thom Yorke       | 82 Paul Buchanan   |
| 18 Brian Wilson      | 51 Barbra Streisand | 83 Prince          |
| 19 Joni Mitchell     | 52 Nat King Cole    | 84 Roger Chapman   |
| 20 Captain Beefheart | 53 Bessie Smith     | 85 Liam Gallagher  |
| 21 Eric Burdon       | 54 Lowell George    | 86 Tracey Thorn    |
| 22 Freddie Mercury   | 55 Patsy Cline      | 87 Paul Weller     |
| 23 Howlin' Wolf      | 56 Rod Stewart      | 88 Al Green        |
| 24 Ella Fitzgerald   | 57 Jerry Lee Lewis  | 89 Led Zeppelin    |
| 25 Tom Waits         | 58 Joe Cocker       | 90 Robert Johnson  |
| 26 Roger Daltrey     | 59 Lou Reed         | 91 Hank Williams   |
| 27 Nina Simone       | 60 Karen Carpenter  | 92 Aaron Neville   |
| 28 John Fogerty      | 61 Paul Rodgers     | 93 Dionne Warwick  |
| 29 Steve Marriott    | 62 Scott Walker     | 94 Curtis Mayfield |
| 30 Jim Morrison      | 63 Elvis Costello   | 95 June Tabor      |
| 31 Richard Manuel    | 64 Bonnie Raitt     | 96 Big Joe Turner  |
| 32 Morrissey         | 65 Art Garfunkel    | 97 Diana Ross      |
| 33 Michael Stipe     |                     | 98 Kurt Cobain     |
|                      |                     | 99 Solomon Burke   |
|                      |                     | 100 Tina Turner    |

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# Pakistan's tit-for-tat missile test fuels arms race

CONCERN OVER an accelerating arms race in South Asia has deepened after Pakistan tested an advanced medium range missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead deep into India, Iran or China.

The test of the Ghauri or HATF-V missile yesterday came as no surprise after India tested its own equivalent, the Agni N-2, on Sunday. Immediately after the Indians announced their test Pakistan

BY JASON BURKE  
in Islamabad

made clear it would respond rapidly. The Ghauri, named after a medieval Muslim warrior king, was fired from a test site near the northern city of Jhelum and took 12 minutes to travel 730 miles to land on the shores of the Arabian Sea. The Pakistani authorities said the flight was "completely successful" but disclosed few facts

about it. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the missile can carry a 1,000kg payload up to 1,300 miles and stressed that it could "be tipped with any type of warhead".

Defence sources say the new missile is also the first in Pakistan to be fitted with state of the art technology, allowing it to be guided accurately on to its target.

The spokesman said the test demonstrated Pakistan's

"determination to defend our geographic boundaries and strengthen national security". He denied that Pakistan wanted a "nuclear and missile race in South Asia". There was no immediate response to the test from the Indian government.

Last summer, both countries conducted a series of nuclear tests in spite of massive international opposition. The resulting economic sanctions hit hard although India, with its

huge economy and greater foreign currency reserves, has weathered their effect more successfully. Although this week's tests are a setback for international efforts to restrict the two nations' arms development programmes, diplomats say the situation on the subcontinent has improved sharply in the last 12 months.

"If anything, the two tests have lowered the tension between the two countries. There

is nothing like the belligerence and angst we saw last year," said one Pakistan diplomat in the West.

Both nations appear to have followed the procedures laid out in the Lahore Declaration - signed by both countries' Prime Ministers in February - and informed each other of their test plans well in advance. The leaders of the two countries have also recently hinted that they may sign the Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty which covers nuclear testing, later this year.

Analysts say, however, that though the threat of military conflict appears to have receded, there is still concern that the strain of military expenditure on the two nations' economies may undermine attempts to stabilise the region.

"We are now seeing the sort of arms race which proved immensely costly even to well developed Western economies,"

said Professor Zafar Iqbal Cheema of the Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. "Pakistan is just not equipped for that sort of expenditure."

Pakistan is believed to be receiving assistance with its missile development from North Korea. That has been denied and the Foreign Ministry statement issued yesterday stressed that the newly tested missile was part of Pakistan's "indigenous programme".



Malaysian police confronting protesters yesterday AP

## Defiant Anwar is jailed for six years

THE BITTER public battle between Malaysia's ageing political leader and his brilliant protégé reached its climax yesterday with the former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim sentenced to six years in prison on four corruption charges.

With seats for the verdict at a premium, the world's press began queuing outside the High Court at 5.30am. For the lucky ones, it was the smiling, resolute countenance of Anwar when confronted with the six-year sentence that left the biggest impression.

Anwar, once regarded as the natural heir to the Prime Min-

BY SARAH STRICKLAND  
in Kuala Lumpur

ister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, expected to be found guilty of using his position to cover up allegations of sodomy and adultery. "As per instructions" he said with a wry smile when the verdict duly came.

"I had no hope whatsoever that I would be tried fairly," he told the court in an impassioned speech, made despite Judge Augustine Paul's frequent, lame attempts to silence him. "The charges are part of a political conspiracy to destroy me and ensure Dr

Mahathir's continued hold on power at whatever cost. I have been dealt a judgment that stinks to high Heaven."

The trial that has gripped Malaysians for six months has steered a course through the tragic to the plain farcical. The sight of Anwar's bruised and beaten face in his first court appearance last year drew international condemnation, while the lengthy perusal of a semen-stained mattress rivalled the Lewinsky affair for unsavoury details. When witness after witness began to retract or deny allegations of sodomy and adultery, the trial looked as

though it might fall apart altogether.

Sadly for Anwar, Judge Augustine succeeded in reaching a conclusion, one that may kill the defendant's political career. If an appeal fails, he will be in prison for the next six years and barred from entering parliament for five years after his release, by which time he will be 62.

Yesterday a lean and fit-looking Anwar showed just why he has inspired such a ground swell of public support, not only with his fiery speeches, but with a cheeky humour and obvious devotion to his family.

When pleading with the judge to let him speak, he quipped: "You have 394 pages - I have just five!" And he was quick to correct the attorney-general, who appeared to refer to him as the former prime minister. "I was not the leader. I was the deputy leader!" he called out, to stifled laughs from the benches behind.

The ebullient defendant looked momentarily shaken when the sentence was passed and jumped out of his seat to check he had heard correctly. "Was that six or sixteen?" he asked incredulously.

He soon recovered his com-

posure, turning to smile at his family and clench his fist.

"I expected two to four years, but I'm not that surprised," he said afterwards. "It will be difficult, I will miss my family, but we have to continue the fight."

His parents, his wife, Azzah Ismail, and their six children surrounded him afterwards, hugging and kissing him. Nurul Izzah, his eldest daughter, was unable to control her tears, which flowed down her cheeks until her father gently touched her head and smiled at her in mock reproval.

As Azzah left the courtroom,

she was greeted by cheers and chants of "We want justice!" from the crowds outside. Fighting back tears, she said: "Our family is very sad, but we have no regrets."

Gurbachan Singh, one of Anwar's lawyers, called the sentence "manifestly excessive". He added: "The maximum in this sort of case has been two years. I am completely shocked."

After the verdict crowds took to the streets in defiance of a ban on gatherings, and vented their feelings at the ranks of police and water cannon awaiting them. Soon streams of water

laced with pepper spray were running in the gutters under the midday sun. One of those arrested was Tian Chua, head of an alliance of opposition parties and rights groups. "I want to know why police have beaten me up," Mr Tian, who appeared to have bruises on his head, told reporters.

The 73-year-old Dr Mahathir is now left to wonder if his former friend may be more of a threat inside prison than out. Anwar suggested that his incarceration was perhaps "just a small sacrifice" on his part to convince the people of the urgent need for reform.



Opposition leader Tian Chua being arrested (left) in Kuala Lumpur after Anwar Ibrahim's trial ended yesterday. Anwar (right) arriving at the High Court. AFP



AFP

## Whistle-blower's attack mars debate on Brussels

THE WHISTLE-BLOWER whose testimony helped to bring down the European Commission heaped more criticism on Brussels yesterday, despite a decision to reinstate him on full pay.

The embarrassing dispute blew up as Europe's leaders gathered to debate ambitious ideas for reform of the workings of European Union, in response to the resignation of all 20 commissioners.

Paul van Buitenen's claims of corruption and mismanagement precipitated the crisis that propelled Jacques Santer from office as president of the Commission, prompting the clean-up. Yesterday, Mr Van Buitenen criticised the author-

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

ities for refusing to drop disciplinary charges against him and for not allowing him to return to his old job as an auditor.

Instead, he will work in an equivalent position from tomorrow. Yesterday he said: "If the Commission want to remain credible, one of the steps they should take is to give me back my job as an auditor." He said his testimony, leaked in December to the European Parliament, had been vindicated by the independent experts' report that toppled Mr Santer last month.

The new attention given to the case came as the heads of gov-

ernment held their first discussions on reform with Romano Prodi, the former Italian premier now nominated as Mr Santer's successor. Mr Prodi has made clear he wants to construct a more heavyweight team, with no time-servers.

There is a growing consensus that the new Commission, which faces ratification hearings by the European Parliament in September, should serve for five-and-a-half years. Some commissioners, including the vice-president, Sir Leon Brittan, hoped to continue until the end of the year when they were due to retire. But this would mean Mr Prodi having to shuffle portfolios after just three months.

Other ideas include changes to the way portfolios are distributed. A reduction in the number of commissioners is seen as a longer-term objective because it would require a treaty change.

New methods of auditing and financial control, and an emphasis on the fight against fraud are expected to be agreed, but the German presidency of the EU hopes for a far-reaching debate about how the Commission can adapt to its changing role, away from initiating legislation, to managing projects. Mr Prodi's argument that the Council of Ministers, which meets in private, should be made more transparent is likely to be resisted.



Romano Prodi (top) and Paul van Buitenen

## 'Untouchables' still India's outcasts

DESPITE A substantially reformed economy and a swelling middle class, India's permanent victims, the so-called Untouchables, remain as despised and ill-treated as ever.

In a report published yesterday on the 108th anniversary of the birth of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the Untouchables' greatest champion, Human Rights Watch (HRW), a non-governmental organisation based in New York, said the abolition of "untouchability" in 1950 has done little to improve conditions for the outcasts. Their political mobilisation since the early Nineties has pro-

BY PETER POPHAM  
in Delhi

voked a fierce backlash from caste Hindus, resulting in massacres and rapes.

HRW urged the World Bank and other international lenders to build anti-discrimination measures into the projects they fund, and recommended that India's aid donors and trading partners raise issues of caste violence and channel funds into the education and training of the victims of oppression.

"Dalits", the favoured term for Untouchables which HRW renders as "Broken People", are

part of the scenery, even in the heart of the modern Indian city. As always throughout history they do the dirty work: sweeping the streets, cleaning lavatories, carting away rubbish.

The caste system, which Human Rights Watch calls "the world's longest surviving social hierarchy", still demands the abasement of its humblest members - or rather non-members, for the essence of untouchability is that the "ritual pollution" of the Dalits puts them beyond the pale of Hindu society. The Untouchables have separate villages and wells. They are barred from temples

and cannot share food or crockery with caste Hindus without "polluting" them.

These ideas retain a fierce grip on Hindu sensibilities because, as the report explains, caste remains "a defining feature of Hinduism". More than 160 million Dalits continue to be oppressed. When this is challenged, the consequences can be dire. In Tamil Nadu in 1997, a Dalit was elected to the presidency of a village council. A high-caste group retaliated by murdering six local Dalits, including the man who had been elected, whom they beheaded. In Bihar, the militancy of

landless Dalit farm labourers has prompted upper-caste militias to murder more than 400 Dalits in the past five years.

The report said: "Untouchability is not an ancient cultural artefact, it is human rights abuse on a vast scale." India's fragile coalition government lost a key partner. The former movie star J Jayalalitha, withdrew the support of the 18 MPs of her party, based in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Hindu nationalist BJP-led government, now 14 months old, faces a vote of confidence in parliament, which reconvenes today.

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£1,391.13, £1,411.59, £1,432.10, £1,452.76, £1,473.57, £1,494.53, £1,515.64, £1,536.90, £1,558.31, £1,579.87, £1,601.58, £1,623.44, £1,645.45, £1,667.61, £1,689.92, £1,712.38, £1,734.99, £1,757.75, £1,780.66, £1,803.72, £1,826.93, £1,850.29, £1,873.80, £1,897.46, £1,921.27, £1,945.23, £1,969.34, £1,993.60, £2,018.01, £2,042.57, £2,067.28, £2,092.14, £2,117.15, £2,142.31, £2,167.62, £2,193.08, £2,218.69, £2,244.45, £2,270.36, £2,296.42, £2,322.63, £2,348.99, £2,375.50, £2,402.16, £2,428.97, £2,455.93, £2,483.04, £2,510.30, £2,537.71, £2,565.27, £2,592.98, £2,620.84, £2,648.85, £2,677.01, £2,705.32, £2,733.78, £2,762.39, £2,791.15, £2,820.06, £2,849.12, £2,878.33, £2,907.69, £2,937.20, £2,966.86, £2,996.67, £3,026.63, £3,056.74, £3,086.99, £3,117.39, £3,147.94, £3,178.64, £3,209.49, £3,240.49, £3,271.64, £3,302.94, £3,334.39, £3,365.99, £3,397.74, £3,429.64, £3,461.69, £3,493.89, £3,526.14, £3,558.54, £3,591.09, £3,623.69, £3,656.44, £3,689.34, £3,722.39, £3,755.59, £3,788.94, £3,822.44, £3,856.09, £3,889.89, £3,923.84, £3,957.94, £3,992.19, £4,026.59, £4,061.14, £4,095.84, £4,130.69, £4,165.69, £4,200.84, £4,236.14, £4,271.59, £4,307.19, £4,342.94, £4,378.84, £4,414.89, £4,451.09, £4,487.34, £4,523.64, £4,560.09, £4,596.59, £4,633.24, £4,669.94, £4,706.79, £4,743.79, £4,780.94, £4,818.24, £4,855.69, £4,893.29, £4,930.94, £4,968.74, £5,006.69, £5,044.79, £5,082.94, £5,121.24, £5,159.69, £5,198.29, £5,236.94, £5,275.74, £5,314.69, £5,353.79, £5,392.94, £5,432.24, £5,471.69, £5,511.29, £5,550.94, £5,590.74, £5,630.69, £5,670.79, £5,710.94, £5,751.24, £5,791.69, £5,832.29, £5,872.94, £5,913.74, £5,954.69, £5,995.79, £6,036.94, £6,078.24, £6,119.69, £6,161.29, £6,202.94, £6,244.74, £6,286.69, £6,328.79, £6,370.94, £6,413.24, £6,455.69, £6,498.29, £6,540.94, £6,583.74, £6,626.69, £6,669.79, £6,712.94, £6,756.24, £6,799.69, £6,843.29, £6,886.94, £6,930.74, £6,974.69, £7,018.79, £7,062.94, £7,107.24, £7,151.69, £7,196.29, £7,240.94, £7,285.74, £7,330.69, £7,375.79, £7,420.94, £7,466.24, £7,511.69, £7,557.29, £7,602.94, £7,648.74, £7,694.69, £7,740.79, £7,786.94, £7,833.24, £7,879.69, £7,926.29, £7,972.94, £8,019.74, £8,066.69, £8,113.79, £8,160.94, £8,208.24, £8,255.69, £8,303.29, £8,350.94, £8,398.74, £8,446.69, £8,494.79, £8,542.94, £8,591.24, £8,639.69, £8,688.29, £8,736.94, £8,785.74, £8,834.69, £8,883.79, £8,932.94, £8,982.24, £9,031.69, £9,081.29, £9,130.94, £9,180.74, £9,230.69, £9,280.79, £9,330.94, £9,381.24, £9,431.69, £9,482.29, £9,532.94, £9,583.74, £9,634.69, £9,685.79, £9,736.94, £9,788.24, £9,839.69, £9,891.29, £9,942.94, £9,994.74, £10,046.69, £10,098.79, £10,150.94, £10,203.24, £10,255.69, £10,308.29, £10,360.94, £10,413.74, £10,466.69, £10,519.79, £10,572.94, £10,626.24, £10,679.69, £10,733.29, £10,786.94, £10,840.74, £10,894.69, £10,948.79, £11,002.94, £11,057.24, £11,111.69, £11,166.29, £11,220.94, £11,275.74, £11,330.69, £11,385.79, £11,440.94, £11,496.24, £11,551.69, £11,607.29, £11,662.94, £11,718.74, £11,774.69, £11,830.79, 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# Two worlds collide in a wasteland racked by war

FRONTLINE  
SOUTHERN SUDAN

SOMETIMES IN a war zone, the most obvious frontline is not the military line. It is the line between wealth and deprivation, malnutrition and health – the line between two opposite poles that have become a surreal sort of normality.

Much of southern Sudan is a wasteland. There is no working economy, no public transport, almost no schools or hospitals. Last year, a devastating famine killed tens of thousands of people. Hunger on a less lethal scale is ever-present. In most areas, there is no electricity; drinking water is in short supply. With a low-level war that has continued for years, ordinary civilian life scarcely exists. Poverty is total.

And then, like a UFO from a distant planet, into this universe arrives a strange manifestation of otherness. Out of the sky can be heard the distant drone of a plane. Villagers gather to meet the metal machine, or just to watch.

Down the steps come the representatives of the Other World. They wear floppy hats and summer dresses, almost-crisp white T-shirts and jeans or baggy fatigues. They are mostly Europeans, plus a few locals whose education has allowed them to somersault seemingly insurmountable barriers.

There are hugs and hellos from the little band of arrivals – aid workers, human rights re-

searchers, doctors, nurses, the odd reporter.

The plane's cargo is unloaded: flour, rice, tea, medical supplies. Some of those who greeted the arrivals take their seats in the departing plane, to return to the world of restaurants, apartments and clean water; others take their passengers or cargo into four-wheel-drive vehicles and melt into the bush.

This scene repeats itself day after day, month after month, all over southern Sudan. At the otherwise unremarkable little town of Lokichokio in northern Kenya, a huge airport has grown up – the busiest in the region, apart from the international hub in Nairobi. But there are no scheduled passenger flights, just Red Cross, the United Nations, the World Food Programme... all the aircraft are carrying aid; the majority of it goes to Sudan.

Taking trips on these planes is comfortable, in a strange kind of way. You can chat to the American or Russian pilot; sit in the passenger seats or huddle on sacks of cargo in the rear. Veteran aid workers calmly tell stories of pilots getting lost, and of aircraft that run out of fuel (with no working radio to organise a rescue).

Such occasional dramas apart, however, the three-hour journey is strangely routine, like a commuter's flight from Heathrow to Aberdeen.



Villagers in southern Sudan glimpse another world when one of many planes arrives with food and medical supplies

Tom Pilston

On arrival, the visitor remains cocooned. The aid workers' encampment is a place where you can enjoy a full fry-up breakfast – sausage, bacon, eggs, the works – with unlimited supplies of coffee, tea and drinking water.

The contrast between the two worlds is no less disconcerting for the sense that there is no way around it. The visitor can drop something tiny into this ocean of poverty – giving away a T-shirt here, a pair of shoes there. Aid workers who

live there give their skills, every day. But beyond that, the gap remains unbridgeable. Occasionally, arguments explode between aid organisations about the extent to which they could usefully blend in more with their habitat. Chris-

tian Aid, one of the agencies most active in southern Sudan, prides itself on being involved with projects that are locally driven and organised. But other agencies, including the UN World Food Programme, have become involved in dis-

putes about how aid should be organised. Some complain that institutional conservatism means the devastating famine last year was recognised too late. Others complain that arrogance and ignorance meant that some goods, including

building materials for an agency compound, were flown in at enormous expense when they were available locally. There have been complaints, too, that expatriates are employed where locals are equally qualified.

Even if these arguments are resolved, what one aid worker calls the "weird feeling" of two worlds remains. By default, the aid agencies here have become a kind of alternative government. There is no civilian leadership in southern Sudan. The Islamic government in Khartoum has no control over anything but a few pockets of the breakaway Christian south (it bombs the south and sponsors bandit violence, but not much else); the southern rebels, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, are more interested in fighting the north than in making civilian structures work. Into this vacuum come the aid agencies, attempting to make sense out of the anarchy.

The task is daunting. According to some analysts, famine may again be on the way this year; either "food shortages" or "famine" are forecast, depending on who you talk to. Either way, there will be no shortage of suffering – at least unless Khartoum is forced to end this long and bitter war. All over southern Sudan, well-dressed passengers will continue to disembark on a daily basis, and to disappear again into an unforgiving blue sky.

STEVE CRAWSHAW

## Netanyahu falters as poll race heats up

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

HAS THE magician turned into a rabbit? This is the hope of the multitude of personal and political enemies of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, after the first real clash of the Israeli election campaign. It happened on television, a forum where Mr Netanyahu built his career and usually shines. But in a live debate earlier this week he floundered as Yitzhak Mordechai, his former defence minister and a prime ministerial candidate, accused him of possessing "neither truth, nor honesty nor integrity".

The debate confirms that the election is not about negotiations with the Palestinians, but about Mr Netanyahu's personality. Mr Mordechai, one of an astonishing number of the prime minister's former ministers who now regard him with loathing, told him: "The elections are about you."

Ehud Barak, leader of the Israeli Labour party, now renamed One Israel, and Mr Netanyahu's main opponent, was not even in the television studio, but emerged as the winner. In the run-up to the election on 17 May – with a run-off on 1 June if no candidate to be prime minister gets more than half the vote – Mr Netanyahu's former friends are proving as dangerous as his declared enemies.

It is all very different from the 1996 election, which Mr Netanyahu won by a whisker. Then the poll took place after the as-



Ehud Barak: Poses main challenge to Netanyahu

sassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister. Palestinian suicide bombers had just killed about 60 people, and Israeli parents were afraid to send their children to school by bus.

Mr Netanyahu might justifiably claim that he has succeeded in removing this threat over the past three years. Many voters feel Israel is a less violent place than it was at the height of the internationally lauded Oslo peace process. Ironically Mr Netanyahu's very success in short-circuiting Oslo without paying the price of an increase in Palestinian violence has its disadvantages for his election campaign. Without a sense of threat from the Palestinians, Mr Netanyahu's portrayal of himself as the man best able to deal with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, resonates less with Israeli voters.

Mr Barak has also been busy inoculating himself against the allegation that he is Mr Arafat's

choice. In the past week he has announced he will hold a referendum on a final status agreement with the Palestinians. He promised not to withdraw to Israel's pre-1967 borders and to keep Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli sovereignty.

The One Israel leader also has problems with his core support. In 1996 some 83 per cent of the Israeli-Arabs voted for Shimon Peres, the Labour candidate. But this time Azmi Bishara, an Israeli-Arab, is a candidate who will siphon off votes from Mr Barak in the first round of voting on 17 May. Unfortunately for Mr Barak, this is also the day of the Knesset elections in which Israeli-Arab parties are standing. In the second round, with only two Jewish candidates for the prime minister's office to vote for, many Israeli-Arabs may stay at home, costing Mr Barak vital votes. He knows his chances are better in the first round. But he can win at this stage only if Mr Mordechai withdraws. For this reason, many of Mr Netanyahu's supporters think that his failure in the television debate may be to their advantage. It will keep Mr Mordechai, whose campaign was dead in the water, in the race.

During the debate he promised Mr Netanyahu not to withdraw. Nobody knows better than the Prime Minister that such pledges are made to be broken, but the magician of Israeli politics is still a long way from losing his job.

## Starr tells Senate his job should be abolished

KENNETH STARR, the independent prosecutor whose investigation into the Monica Lewinsky affair almost ended Bill Clinton's presidency, said yesterday that the job was a constitutional aberration and should be abolished. Mr Starr was testifying before the Senate governmental affairs committee in his first public appearance since the Senate acquitted Mr Clinton of lying and obstructing justice in January.

Congress must decide whether to renew what is known as the independent counsel statute when its term expires at the end of June. The law was passed in 1978 after the Watergate scandal in an at-

tempt to prevent a President exerting political pressure on the judiciary. The way it functioned in the four-year investigation into President Clinton – starting with the inquiry into the Whitewater land deal – provoked a storm of criticism, not least on grounds of expense. The investigation into President Clinton has so far cost more than \$40m.

Alluding to his own problems in conducting the investigation into the President, Mr Starr said the post of independent prosecutor had myriad defects which limited its effectiveness and exposed the holder to political attack. "No matter what the Congress decides, no matter what microsurgical precision is applied to fine-tune the statute, these problems will endure," he said yesterday.

Mr Starr has long opposed the independent counsel statute. But he accepted his appointment, once nominated, and fiercely defended the performance of his office in doing its constitutional duty.

The attorney-general, Janet Reno, has already recommended that the statute not be renewed. With opposition to the law shared by both parties, Kenneth Starr could be the last to hold the post.

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## BUSINESS

Blair intervenes in C&W's  
telecoms battle with Japan

## BRIEFING

## JP Morgan profits soar to \$600m

JP MORGAN, the US investment bank saw first quarter profits jump 64 per cent to \$600m (£380m) - almost double analysts' expectations. The bank, which traditionally makes a higher proportion of its earnings from its trading operations, has benefited from the record-breaking share price run in the first quarter. On Tuesday Merrill Lynch, the biggest US investment bank, reported an 18 per cent rise in first quarter profits.

## Schroders doubles Wassall stake



SCHROEDERS INVESTMENT Management has bought 5.25m shares in Wassall, doubling its stake to 6.74 per cent, a spokesman for the fund manager said yesterday. The spokesman declined to say whether the purchase is related to the current bid by Wassall for BICC, which is being advised by Schroders' merger and acquisitions arm, J Henry Schroder.

Wassall, headed by chief executive Chris Miller (pictured), has made three offers for BICC, the latest at 110p a share in cash, all of which have been rejected. Wassall shares fell 8.5p to 216p yesterday, while BICC rose 1.5p to 108p.

## GM cardholders can reap rewards

FROM 1 MAY, GM Creditcard holders can use reward points on their cards to save up to £500 on used Vauxhalls and up to £2,000 on all new Cadillacs and Chevrolet cars bought in the UK. Richard Parker, the manager of the GM card said yesterday. Cardholders will also be able to earn bonus points when paying for parts, repairs, servicing and accessories at Vauxhall dealerships. The new benefits build on the original bonus scheme introduced five years ago which allows cardholders to earn discounts of up to £2,500 on new Vauxhalls.

THE PRIME MINISTER, Tony Blair, has intervened on behalf of Cable &amp; Wireless, the telecom group, in its row with the Japanese government about C&amp;W's attempts to gain a foothold in the Japanese telecom market.

In a move that could escalate into a fully-fledged trade war, Mr Blair is understood to have complained to the Japanese government about moves by NTT, the state-owned telecom giant, to force C&W out of the Japanese market. The United States Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky, is also thought to

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

have joined the debate. C&W is currently trying to take control of IDC, a long-distance telecom operator which was set up by a consortium of companies, including C&W, in 1987. However, NTT has trumped its offer and is now threatening to invoke new provisions in Japanese company law which can be used to force minority shareholders to sell their shares.

C&W, which has a 17.7 per cent stake in IDC, has tabled an offer for IDC which values the company at ¥62.4bn (£328m).

But NTT is thought to be trying to snatch control of IDC by making a higher offer. The decision on the deal rests with IDC's main shareholders, including the car group Toyota and Itochu, the trading company, both of which have 17.7 per cent shareholdings. Airtouch, the US mobile phone operator which recently merged with Vodafone has a 10 per cent stake.

"Corporate Japan is genuinely determined that Japan will get control of IDC," one analyst said yesterday. "C&W are really annoyed." C&W is

hoping to invoke pre-emption rights, which it claims were negotiated at the time of the deal, allowing it to match any offer made for shares in IDC by an outside bidder. Meanwhile, C&W has indicated it has no intention of selling its stake. However, a new provision which is due to be added to Japan's commercial code later this year would allow NTT to force C&W to sell its stake if the Japanese group managed to take a controlling stake in IDC.

Under the new rule, which is designed to speed the restructuring of Japanese industry, a

majority shareholder can force a minority shareholder to sell provided the bidder has the approval of its own shareholders. Because NTT is controlled by the state, the Japanese government would effectively have to approve the move.

"We have received assurances from the Japanese government that the ownership of IDC will be treated as a purely commercial matter," a C&W spokesman said. "As the government is a majority shareholder in NTT it would be very strange if it allowed this to go ahead." Rod Olsen, a former

C&W director who helped negotiate the setting up of IDC and still sits on its board, is understood to have flown out to Japan this week to attempt to resolve the deadlock. Gaining control of IDC would give C&W a much-needed Japanese leg to its business. The venture also has a fast-growing Internet division which would combine with the US Internet business C&W bought from MCI WorldCom last year. "Getting access to Japanese Internet volumes in the future will be very helpful," an analyst said.

Outlook, page 15

House prices  
in London  
rise by 10%

BY LEA PATERSON

THE UK housing market could be set for a bumper 1999, according to new research, with house prices in some parts of the country rising by as much as 10 per cent over the last 12 months.

The quarterly Halifax housing index, which came out this morning, reveals that home-owners in London, the North West and Northern Ireland have benefited most from the recent recovery in the housing market. Prices in all three of these regions are up by more than 2.5 per cent since the start of the year.

In Greater London and Northern Ireland, the annual rates of house price inflation are running at 9.6 per cent and 10.1 per cent respectively according to Halifax research. The average price paid per house sold in Greater London is £114,666, compared to a nationwide average of £73,667.

The situation is less rosy, however, in other areas, some of which have seen house prices continue to fall. Scotland, Wales, East Anglia and most of Southern England have seen prices decline since January.

There have also been falls in house prices in the West Midlands, Halifax said, possibly because of the damage inflicted on economic confidence by uncertainty over the future of Rover's Longbridge plant.

On average, house prices in the UK rose by 0.2 per cent in the first quarter of the year, according to Halifax, and have

risen by 4.4 per cent over the last 12 months.

Over the longer term, Halifax said it was "cautiously optimistic", citing the current low interest rate environment and the "modest impact" of the Budget as factors that would support property prices going forward.

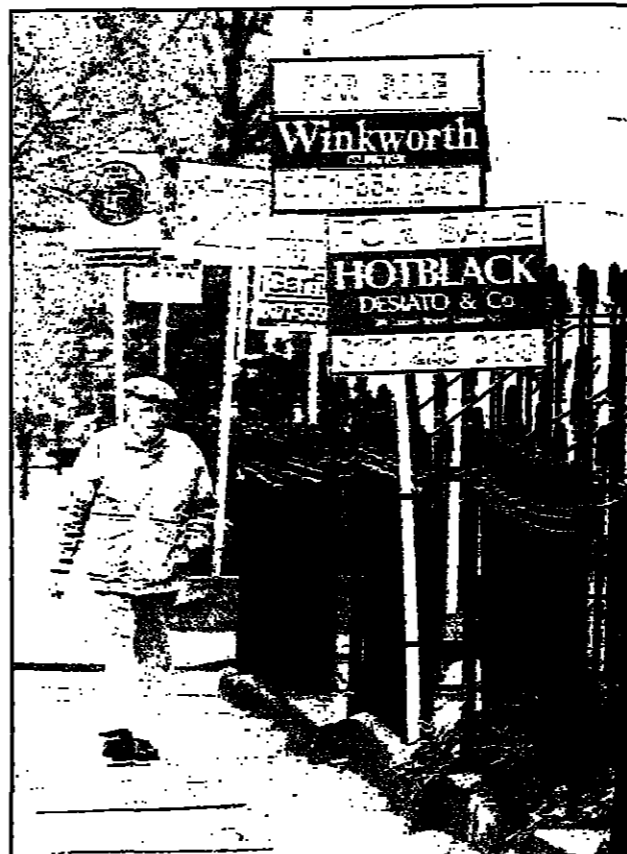
Other experts agreed with Halifax's assessment of the housing market, saying that prices were on the up, particularly in London, but there was as yet no danger of overheating.

Harry Hill, the managing director of Countrywide Assured, the estate agency group which yesterday reported record monthly trading figures, said: "The market is showing a lot more resilience, but it's against a very subdued background."

Yolande Barnes of the property consultant FPD Savills said: "In the mainstream market there is scope for prices to rise substantially."

In a separate survey, Nationwide building society found there had been a "marked pick-up" in house prices, and increased its forecast for 1999 house price inflation from 3 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

According to Nationwide, the Bank of England's recent aggressive interest rate cuts had substantially contributed to the improved housing market sentiment.



For Sale signs line a London street. House prices in the capital have risen by 2.5 per cent so far this year

## Halifax puts 1,500 jobs at risk

UP TO 1,500 jobs could be at risk at Halifax, the UK bank, which yesterday announced plans to sell more than a third of its estate agency outlets, writes Lea Paterson.

Halifax, which currently owns 606 agencies nationwide, has put 224 outlets up for sale - a move that is expected to save the former building society as much as £50m per year.

The bank said it hoped to minimise redundancies among the 1,500 affected employees by selling as many outlets as possible as going concerns.

James Crosby, the Halifax

chief executive, said he had already received numerous expressions of interest, while Countrywide Assured, the UK's largest estate agency chain, confirmed that it was among the potential bidders for the Halifax outlets. Analysts valued the outlets at around £20m.

Mr Crosby said: "It may be easier to sell all the agencies to one buyer, but we are going to be particularly influenced by what is right for our employees. My best guess is that the end result will be a number of groupings as well as some individual sales."

According to Halifax, the move is part of a wider reorganisation initiated by Mr Crosby in December, and the sale of the 224 outlets will enable the bank to concentrate its efforts in the regions where most of its customers live.

Areas where Halifax has a relatively small presence - such as Wales and the East of England - will bear the brunt of the estate agency sales, and a total of 1,500 full and part-time staff will be affected.

Halifax said it was reorganising its current 123 banking and estate agency areas into

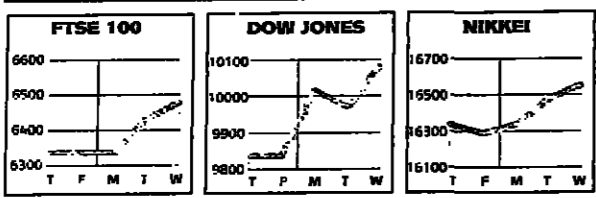
just 50 "customer marketing" areas, and that a single manager in each area would be responsible for both the estate agency and the banking business.

This would result in some - but not all - estate agency outlets being combined with the banking outlets, Halifax said.

The bank expects to incur exceptional costs of up to £25m from the disposal, and will forego revenues from the outlets of £30m per year for the first two to three years.

The shares closed 8.5p at 864p.

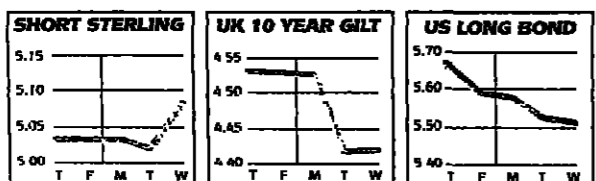
## STOCK MARKETS



## INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6493.60	-19.30	-0.30	6518.50	4999.20	2.42
FTSE 250	5617.50	-45.10	-0.81	5670.90	4247.60	3.12
FTSE 350	3084.40	-4.20	-0.14	3099.40	2110.40	2.52
FTSE All Share	2983.33	-2.93	-0.10	2987.89	2143.53	2.57
FTSE SmallCap	2443.50	15.30	0.63	2793.80	1834.40	3.53
FTSE Fledgling	1225.60	6.30	0.48	1512.10	1046.20	3.87
FTSE AIM	893.40	3.60	0.41	1146.90	761.30	1.15
FTSE Eurotop 100	3019.32	-16.06	-0.53	3079.27	2018.15	1.92
FTSE Eurotop 300	1299.56	-6.19	-0.47	1392.07	880.63	1.87
Amsterdam	10424.91	115.72	1.11	10418.67	7400.30	1.51
Nikkei	16744.89	49.52	0.30	17166.06	12787.90	0.76
Hong Kong	11834.13	-65.56	-0.55	11956.43	6544.79	2.97
Dax	5182.16	-17.02	-0.33	6217.83	3893.71	1.58
S&P 500	1350.61	3.03	0.22	1362.38	923.32	1.19
Nasdaq	2589.99	10.40	0.40	2630.52	1357.09	0.27
Toronto 300	6995.10	87.30	1.26	7837.70	5320.90	1.49
Brazil Bovespa	11311.92	88.34	0.79	12339.14	4575.69	8.12
Belgium Bel20	3330.96	3.21	0.10	3713.21	2696.26	1.98
Amsterdam Eux	543.80	2.41	0.48	600.65	366.58	1.84
France CAC 40	4349.26	-18.15	-0.42	4418.00	2881.21	1.66
Madrid IBEX 35	3683.00	-165.00	-4.45	3917.00	2417.00	4.85
FTSE Fledgling	10080.40	-40.40	-0.40	10989.80	6869.90	1.76
Irish Overall	5384.76	-39.15	-0.73	5581.70	3732.57	1.53
S Korea Comp	0.00	-2.39	-0.35	701.03	277.37	1.00
Australia ASX	3088.20	11.90	0.39	3082.00	2386.70	3.00

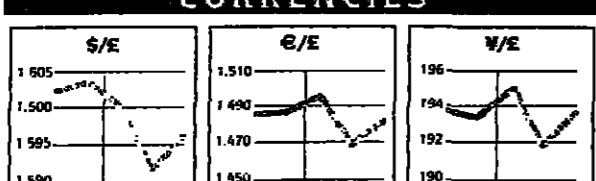
## INTEREST RATES



## MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr Ago
UK	5.32	-2.23	5.32	-2.18	4.42	-1.31
US	5.00	-0.69	5.21	-0.64	4.49	-0.41
Japan	0.15	-0.52	0.23	-0.47	1.65	-0.20
Germany	2.64	-0.99	2.71	-1.22	3.83	-1.03

## CURRENCIES



## FOUND

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6117	-0.28c	1.6893
Euro	1.4955	-0.13c	1.4079
Yen	191.72	-0.11c	218.29
E Index	103.00	-0.20	107.30

## DOLLAR

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6205	+0.11p	0.5934
Euro	0.9275	+15.03c	0.8571
Yen	129.50	-0.40	129.50
S Index	107.90	-0.40	109.00

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.46	-0.57	12.50
Gold (\$)	282.45	-1.30	308.25
Silver (\$)	4.94	0.05	6.41
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33
Base Rates	5.25	7.25	

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4474	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.95
Austria (schillings)	19.95	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1976
Belgium (francs)	58.65	New Zealand (\$)	2.8543
Canada (\$)	2.3491	Norway (kroner)	12.21
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8383	Portugal (escudos)	289.71
Denmark (kroner)	10.88	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8881
Finland (markka)	8.6584	Singapore (\$)	2.5980
France (francs)	9.5305	South Africa (rand)	9.4968
Germany (marks)	2.8510	Spain (pesetas)	241.16
Greece (drachma)	473.18	Sweden (kronor)	13.06
Hong Kong (\$)	12.15	Switzerland (francs)	2.3396
Ireland (pounds)	1.1420	Thailand (bahts)	54.75
India (rupees)	62.06	Turkey (liras)	589880
Israel (shekels)	6.0175	USA (\$)	1.5793
Italy (lira)	2825		
Japan (yen)	188.95		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8326		
Malta (lira)	0.6202		

Rates for indication purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook

## Barclays weighs up its options

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

THE BARCLAYS BANK board meets today for the second time this week following Monday's shock news that the new chief executive Mike O'Neill was retiring on health grounds after one day in the office.

Directors of the bank have their first opportunity to formally discuss the issues facing the bank in the wake of Mr O'Neill's departure, including the suggestion that Royal Bank of Scotland is keen to initiate discussions about a £32bn merger.

RBS's claim to be the only bank that could realistically pull off a deal with Barclays at this stage was reinforced by comments by Peter Ellwood,

the chief executive of Lloyds-TSB, at the bank's annual general meeting in Edinburgh.

He said the bank was convinced that any merger with a bank the size of Barclays would be blocked by the regulatory authorities.

The prospect of a merger drove the two banks' shares higher yesterday. Barclays was up 25p at 1944p. RBS was up 19p at 1444p, both against a backdrop of a falling market.

A hastily convened board meeting at Barclays on Monday endorsed the belief of Sir Peter Middleton, Barclays'

acting chief executive and chairman-elect, that the bank should concentrate on finding a replacement and should not be panicked into a merger at this stage.

However, the meeting, which lasted no more than an hour, was specifically to address the terms of Mr O'Neill's departure and no substantive issues were discussed.

A number of key board members including Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of property company Slough Estates, and the senior non-executive were abroad and unable to participate fully in discussions.

Investment bankers said yesterday that they under-

stood that the Royal Bank believed that Scottish Widows, the Edinburgh-based mutual life insurer, could be persuaded to join in a three-way merger. The attraction would be of a powerful savings brand.

"They have definitely talked about using Scottish Widows. That may be the card that wins the day," one banker said yesterday.

Barclays has so far responded coolly to suggestions of a merger deal. Barclays executives said yesterday: "We would not think of consolidation as a solution to our chief executive problem."

News analysis, page 17

3i has upper hand  
in Electra struggle

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

ELECTRA, the venture capital group fighting a £1.25bn bid from 3i, last night appeared to be heading for defeat at today's shareholder meeting.

Institutions accounting for at least 24.6 per cent of its shares were reported to be preparing to vote against the board's reconstruction proposals. 3i needs 25 per cent of the votes to be sure of blocking Electra's plans to buyback 40 per cent of its shares and wind the trust up although with at least 10 per cent of the shareholders expected not to vote, Electra's hopes of surviving looked slim, although neither side would

comment on which way they expected the vote to go.

GE Investment, the US pension fund has said it will be voting its 2 per cent on Electra's behalf. Equitable Life with 4.5 per cent and US Steel Carnegie with 3.1 per cent are also believed to be intending to back Electra today. Against that are ranged the Prudential with 7.7 per cent, Legal & General with 4 per cent, Standard Life with 4.2 per cent, Phillips & Drew with 2.3 per cent and Royal Sun Alliance with 0.6 per cent.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

## LONDON

FOOTSE HIT yet another trading high but found the pace too much and by the close was nursing a 19.5 points fall to 6,493.6. Supporting shares, however, were in more buoyant form.

Imperial Chemical Industries was the best performing blue chip, gaining 47.5p to 635.5p as talk resurfaced that it was on the verge of clinching a near £2bn sale of its industrial chemical operations to Huntsman, an American group.

Derek Pain, page 18

## NEW YORK

US SHARES moved still higher during the morning with the DJIA gaining 115 points to yet another all-time high of 10,511 at midday, after recovering from mid-morning losses. The rally was led by investment bank JP Morgan after it reported earnings of \$3.01 a share against estimates of \$1.73. The biggest movements were in response to earnings results and forecasts. Some blue chip stocks responded to demand from investors picking up stock ahead of Friday's deadline for tax returns.

## TOKYO

HOPES THAT Japanese pension funds will soon be allocating new money into the stock market helped sustain the rally in Tokyo, pushing the Nikkei 225 share index 0.3 per cent higher to 16,764.68. A brighter-than-expected picture of prospects for the economy from Herwig Schloegl, the deputy secretary-general of the OECD, praising the measures taken by the government, also helped sentiment. High-tech shares such as Sony and NEC eased but banks and insurance shares benefited.

## HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG index turned lower after the 18-month peak it reached on Tuesday. The index closed 65.56 points down at 11,834.13 on profit-taking, after failing to break through 12,000. Reports that life assurance companies are cutting US investment encouraged a note of caution. Hongkong Telecom gained 0.2 to \$HK16.15. Shares in broker Celestial Asia rose 21 per cent and have more than doubled in a week.

## PARIS

CONTINUING FIGHTING in Kosovo weakened European stock markets and the Eurotop 300 share index fell 0.47 per cent. In Paris the CAC-40 index closed 0.42 per cent lower at 4,349.26 in spite of fresh strength on Wall Street. Banks in the bidding war fell sharply in the continuing absence of a counter-bid. Societe Generale fell almost 3 per cent to 162.7 euros. BNP was more than 2 per cent lower at 74.80 and Paribas closed more than 3 per cent down at 95.50.

# Don't get too optimistic just yet

CRACK OPEN the champagne, dust down the dinner jacket – boom times are here again. Or at least that's what you might think had you cast a cursory eye over the financial pages lately. Barely a day goes by (including yesterday) without some sort of record being set by shares on Wall Street or in London.

Business confidence is surging again and according to yesterday's Merrill Lynch fund managers survey, bulls of corporate profits outnumber bears for the first time in the survey's history. Short though that history might be, this is quite a finding. House prices are on the up – by as much as 10 per cent in some parts of the country. The luxury end of the market is said to be doing particularly well. Some commentators even sense the first green shoots of recovery in that perpetual laggard, Japan.

So is everything as rosy as the financial markets would have us believe? Not really. Obviously, things are not as black as they were back in October, when the markets and the global financial system were both looking decidedly sick. Alan Greenspan's decision to cut US interest rates and organise a bailout for Long-Term Capital Manage-



## OUTLOOK

ment succeeded in heading off the risk of global calamity.

On the other hand, it did nothing to address the deep structural problems that exist in many of the world's economies – exceptionally high levels of corporate indebtedness, an appalling lack of information about the ins and outs of banking systems, and inflexible labour markets, to name just a few.

There are signs that many of these difficulties are slowly being dealt with, but they will take years – not months – to resolve.

All this suggests that the markets' enthusiasm is a little misplaced, and that policy makers

need to keep alert – surging business and consumer confidence can easily turn into inflationary pressure. History suggests there is a real danger this could happen.

Back in 1987, the US Fed cut interest rates in order to stave off perceived financial disaster, and was then forced to apply the brakes to quell the subsequent consumer boom. Policy makers are determined not to repeat those mistakes this time round. In most of the world's major economies, the next move in interest rates is therefore likely to be up. Enjoy the current mood of economic optimism while it lasts. It may not be very long.

## Japanese blues

IT IS ironic, but the first use of new laws designed to speed structural and corporate reform in Japan looks like being for that time-honoured Japanese sport – keeping the nasty foreigners out of the Japanese economy. As a result, our very own Cable & Wireless is in severe danger of losing its toe-hold in the world's second largest economy.

Given how difficult it was to secure it in the first place, and the fact

that C&W wants to enhance its position, not diminish it, the company is right to feel aggrieved and to ramp the issue up into a fully-fledged trade dispute.

Lord Sharpe, a former chairman of C&W, had to fight long and hard to be allowed to participate in Japan's telecommunications market. Eventually he was allowed in as part of a consortium licensed to compete as an international telecoms carrier. That business has perhaps never quite lived up to its early promise, but at least it is something, and as part of the company's international strategy C&W now wants to take full control of the operation, buying out other partners who are keen to sell.

The problem is that Japan's dominant domestic carrier, NTT, also wants to buy. The management and other partners seem more inclined to sell to NTT than C&W. Furthermore, other partners, including the car manufacturer Toyota, may not be prepared to honour pre-emption rights entitling C&W to full control.

To most Westerners, this already begins to look like an all-too-familiar Japanese stitch-up, but it gets worse. C&W has indicated that it is determined to remain in as a mi-

nority shareholder even if others sell to NTT. Unfortunately for C&W, new laws designed to ease much-needed corporate restructuring in Japan would allow NTT to "squeeze out" the troublesome minority through compulsory purchase of its shares.

C&W is thus hit by a double whammy. First its pre-emption rights, allowing it to up its stake in Japanese telecoms, are ignored, then it is forced out altogether. This is a terrible state of affairs, and it might reasonably be said that it could only happen in Japan. Technically speaking, this is not a trade issue, since it is not about the import and export of goods, but it falls into a similar bracket.

What this is about is the use of local laws, customs and prejudicial practice to exclude a foreign company from Japan's domestic market, and it is powerful backing for the contention that nothing has really changed in Japan, despite all the talk of structural reform and a new economic dawn.

It is often said that the US's burgeoning trade deficit now stands out as the biggest single threat to the future health of the world economy. The cause of this deficit, however, is not confined to the differing eco-

nomics performance of the US and the rest of the world. It is as much about barriers to trade, protectionism and unfair practice as anything else. In this department, Japan continues to be a major offender.

## Halifax

MIKE BLACKBURN was said to have been bounced out of his job as chief executive of the Halifax for failing to provide a good enough answer to the question of what Britain's biggest building society turned bank was for. Now his successor, Jim Crosby, has adopted the posture of one ordering a rearrangement of deckchairs on the decks of the Titanic.

Halifax's sense of timing could hardly have been better. Halifax chose the very day its own number crunchers said the housing market is going like a train to announce a big rationalisation of its estate agents chain, including the sale of 222 branches.

The story is a painfully familiar one, for Halifax isn't the only big financial institution to have squandered its money by buying into estate agencies at the top of the

housing market, paying the price through the trough, and then compounding its error by getting out just when the market is beginning to turn once more. Prudential did the same thing.

When Jim Crosby was hurriedly appointed last year, many in the City expressed doubts but most said he should be given time to prove himself. As time wears on the question about whether he really has the ability to raise his head above operational matters grows more pressing.

The mortgage market is in long-term decline, margins are being eroded, and the Halifax is struggling to maintain market share. Six months ago the bank was considered as a merger candidate for Barclays. Not now.

Halifax is one of the best brands in retail financial services and the organisation is generally considered in the City to be well run. In terms of market capitalisation it is still bigger than Deutsche Bank. It is also sitting on £1.5bn of surplus cash. Yesterday's rationalisation of the estate agents may be reasonable enough housekeeping, but it will do nothing to reverse the sense that all the Halifax can do is genteelly manage its own decline.

## Polypipe in advanced £337m merger talks

POLYPIPE, the plastic pipes maker, is in advanced talks that could lead to a cash offer of 200p per share, the company announced yesterday. The offer would value Polypipe at £337m and an announcement on an agreed deal could come as early as this morning.

Polypipe shares soared 23 per cent to 193.5p on the news as analysts speculated on the identity of the possible bidder. Attention initially focused on Hepworth, the Gloworm boiler and pipes company. The group declined to comment on market speculation, however its advisers pointed out that Hepworth had a much smaller deal referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission before Easter.

Insiders say a bid for Polypipe would also run into competition problems with the regulators.

Glynwed, the maker of Aga boilers, is seen as a possible predator as is IMI and Pipelife, an Austro-Belgian joint venture.

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

"There has been a process of consolidation in this sector so this is not a surprise," one analyst said.

Polypipe is run by Kevin McDonald, its chairman, who started the business in 1980 after running Hepworth's pipe operations. Mr McDonald is Polypipe's largest shareholder with a 16.7 per cent stake worth around £50m. But at 65, analysts say he could be looking to cash in his holding.

Polypipe has been seen as a possible acquirer in recent months and has been linked with a £23m bid for Avonside. At its interim results presentation last month the company said it was ready to gear up for deals after interest rates had come down sharply.

Polypipe reported flat half-year profits of £12m. In the last full year Polypipe recorded profits of £34.6m on sales of £373m.

Pipes and fittings account

for almost 60 per cent of profits, with bathrooms and kitchens accounting for another 15 per cent.

It sells mostly to builders merchants rather than DIY superstores. The company also has interests in Germany, Poland and France.

Its drainage systems business would be attractive to a bidder. The company also has strong market positions in the manufacture of toilet seats, where it is number one in the UK, and in garden furniture.

"It is very difficult to thrive in this market if you are small," one analyst said. "And they have probably reached maturity in their core UK plastics business."

The building materials sector has gradually been consolidating although analysts say the process still has a long way to go.

Deals in the sector so far include the Lafarge takeover of Redland, CRH's takeover of Bostock and the Etex deal with Marley.

## Albright & Wilson may buy part of US rival

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the fine chemicals company at the centre of a bid battle between Rhodia of France and the US group Albemarle, is in advanced talks to buy part of a US rival in a deal which could scupper the French firm's bid.

News of the discussions comes amid growing speculation that Albemarle could increase its £408m offer, trumping Rhodia's £455m cash bid for the troubled UK group. Albemarle declined to comment yesterday.

The US company, which owns over 18 per cent of A&W, is expected to make a final decision over the next few weeks but analysts predict that it will raise its cash offer in an attempt to drag Rhodia into a bid battle.

The offer by the French group, majority-owned by the drugs giant Rhone-Poulenc, to buy A&W is also under threat from the UK group's talks with the US chemical company Solvay. A&W is believed to be the front-runner to buy the US group's phosphates division, which has been valued at around £200m (£125m).

A victory by A&W, which is bidding with its US partner FCS, could derail the Rhodia bid on competition grounds. Rhodia and A&W are two of the largest producers of phosphates, chemicals used in fizzy drinks and agriculture, and the addition of Solvay is likely to raise objections on both sides of the Atlantic.

By contrast, Albemarle is not a large producer of phosphates and would probably be allowed to buy the enlarged A&W. In its original offer, Albemarle said that it would support A&W's attempt to buy Solvay's phosphates division.

City analysts believe that the Solvay talks are the reason for the A&W board's failure to back the Rhodia offer and to keep their recommendation for the lower bid by Albemarle.

Rhodia, which has over 20 per cent of A&W declined to comment yesterday but industry experts said the French group could try to stop the A&W/Solvay deal by appealing to the Takeover Panel.

They believe the French could claim that A&W's purchase of the Solvay division is a "frustrating action", as it clearly hampers Rhodia's bid, and should be stopped.



Mervyn Pedley, chief executive of the Co-operative Bank, which announced record profits yesterday. Paul Ross

## Record profits as Co-op Bank offers ISAs at the checkout

THE CO-OPERATIVE Bank plans to get closer to its roots and exploit the potential of its retail partners in order to maintain its expansion programme, after posting record profits for the fifth year in succession. Mervyn Pedley, the bank's chief executive said yesterday.

A further 350 cash dispensers are to be installed in Co-op convenience stores, the bank's new Individual Savings Accounts are available at retail store checkouts and plans are afoot to market new products with the Co-op's travel agen-

cies. The bank is also poised to re-enter the mortgage lending market for the first time since its small existing mortgage book was sold off in 1992.

The Co-op's profits before tax rose 34 per cent to £73.6m in the year to 9 January 1999, up from £55m last year. The rise was helped by a combination of sharply increased lending and deposits, an increase in the margin between deposit and lending rates and tight controls on costs.

Operating income grew by

12 per cent. Fee income rose by less than 6 per cent but average customer lending rose by 10 per cent, average deposits grew by 14 per cent, net interest income rose by 15 per cent and the margin between deposit costs and lending returns rose from 4.5 per cent to 4.7 per cent, helped by the rise in average interest rates.

The Co-op's bad debt provisions went up from £25m to £41.6m, increasing from 1.1 per cent to 1.9 per cent of the loan book, but this reflected the controlled growth of higher margin unsecured personal

lending. Mr Pedley said. Operating costs rose by under 2 per cent and staffing levels actually fell slightly, although there were no redundancies.

The bank's reserve ratios edged higher and its market share rose, with 20,000 people joining its Internet banking service in the last year, although the bank still has little more than 2 per cent of the UK market.

Last year's growth rates are unlikely to be maintained as the economy slows, but the current year has started strongly.

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## Bosses complain about labour bill

THE GOVERNMENT is shifting the balance of power much too far towards unions by effectively proposing a ban on dismissing strikers, according to the leaders of nearly 5,700 manufacturing companies.

Ministers are being urged to think again about the Employment Relations Bill, which gives new rights to employees taking official industrial action.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

The Engineering Employers' Federation is calling on ministers to phase in the legislation over 18 months and warns that it could be "very damaging" to small and medium-sized companies. A letter from the federation to Lord Falconer of Thoroton the Cabinet Office

minister, expresses particular concern about a proposal which makes it unlawful to dismiss strikers before eight weeks of industrial action has elapsed.

David Yeandle, the head of employment affairs at the federation, wrote that only 4 per cent of strikes in 1997 lasted more than eight weeks and therefore the proposed act would in effect make it unlaw-

ful to sack strikers. In his letter Mr Yeandle argues that most companies would either go bankrupt or suffer serious financial damage long before the eight week deadline.

He claimed that the proposal had "come from nowhere" and went way beyond the provisions that were set out in the Fairness at Work white paper published last year.

THE INDEPENDENT  
Thursday 15 April 1999

[illegible]

# Scots want first bite of Barclays cherry

**News Analysis: A three-way deal with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows could solve all of the big bank's problems at once**

THE CITY was still digesting the news that Barclays was back to square one in its search for a new chief executive, when Sir George Mathewson, the chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, let it be known that if there genuinely was an opening for a merger deal then it wanted to be first in the queue.

It was even suggested by some investment banking sources yesterday that Sir George might be able to persuade Mike Ross at Scottish Widows to throw it into the pot to create a three-way deal.

This would solve the Barclays leadership issue at a stroke. RBS has a respected, if somewhat prickly, chief executive and an able deputy in the shape of Fred Goodwin, who recently joined from National Australia Bank. RBS would also provide a finance director to replace Oliver Stocken, who has twice had to delay his retirement from Barclays. All of the English clearers would also have to do a deal with Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds-TSB and NatWest are among those who have been down that road in the past.

But with Don Cruickshank's banking commission breathing down their neck, few believe that any further concentration in the banking market would be acceptable on competition grounds.

Peter Ellwood, the Lloyds-TSB chief executive, was tackled on the subject after the bank's AGM yesterday in Edinburgh. He said: "Any merger of the size of Barclays would be blocked by the competition authorities."

Neither the Royal nor its rival, the Bank of Scotland,

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

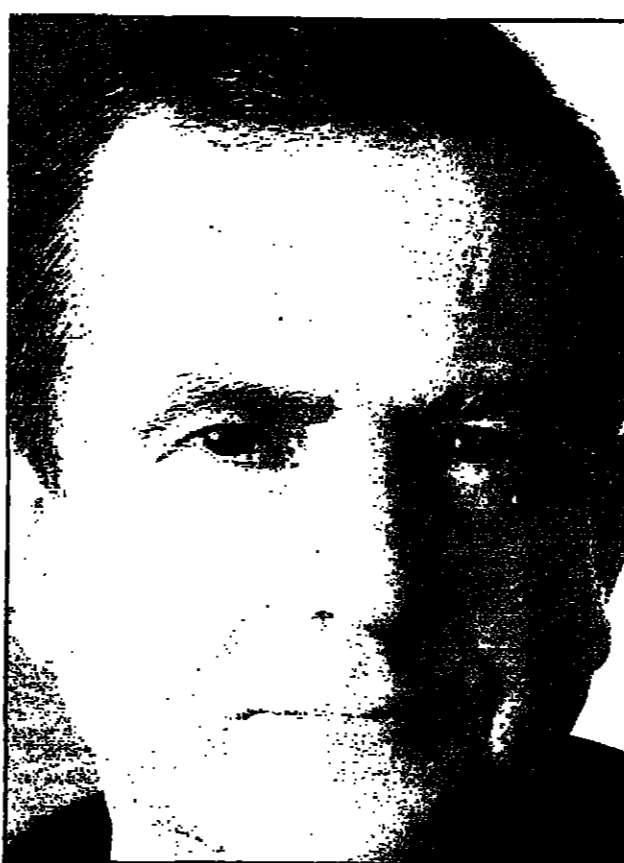
would have that problem. RBS has as many branches South of the border as it has in the North - enough to provide some serious cost savings but not enough to justify serious competition concerns.

In addition, and this particular point is frequently ignored, RBS has strong ties with Banco Santander, which is both Spain's largest bank and the Scottish bank's largest shareholder. Banco Santander, in turn, has ties with Italy's IMI-San Paolo and France's CCF, all banks which are playing a crucial role in the consolidation of the continental European banking sector.

Financial wizardry would be needed to make the deal work. The relative split in terms of shareholders' equity works 79 per cent to 21 per cent in Barclays' favour, although the gap in net income terms is less wide: 68 per cent versus 32 per cent. Widows, which could be worth £10bn on its own, might just balance that.

But the real obstacle to such a deal is the lack of enthusiasm on Barclays' part. Sir Peter Middleton, acting chief executive and chairman-elect, despite his evident wish to be allowed to hand on the reins to a younger man quickly rather than see his caretaker-ship stretch out into the remainder of this year, has made it abundantly clear that he is in no mood to be panicked into a deal, and that the search for a new chief executive now resumes where it left off.

"We would not think of consolidation as a solution to our CEO problem," ran the curt



Banking chief executives Sir Peter Middleton of Barclays (left), Sir George Mathewson of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Peter Ellwood of Lloyds-TSB

response yesterday to news of RBS' interest.

In essence Sir Peter's message on Tuesday had been that all that was needed was to rummage around in one of the dustbins outside Barclays' headquarters in Gracechurch Street, find the old list of candidates and get on the phone.

The bank's headhunters, Spencer Stuart, had identified six candidates of whom three are believed to have been American. Given the fallout from American banking mergers there is also good reason to suppose that some of those identified who were not available then might now be free.

Ray Soifer, an analyst at the Wall Street firm Brown Brothers Harriman, said: "They will find a chief executive. It is a very attractive bank, and the post is one that

carries a great deal of opportunities." Indeed one name that popped up yesterday to add to the familiar list of suspects was Mike Shapiro, a senior vice-president of Chase Manhattan who was seen by many as that organisation's heir apparent but has just been passed over for chief executive by William Harrison.

Preliminary soundings yesterday suggested that institu-

tional investors are ready to give Barclays the benefit of the doubt. Jim Cox at Schroders said there are times when a deal is the answer but this is not one of them: "I'd quite like them to get on and run the business. They are just going to have to get on and find a chief executive. People who think deals are the answer to everyone's problem are daft."

David Erskine at Standard

Life agreed: "I am disappointed that Mike O'Neill is not coming because he had the right pedigree. I think the board acted very well the last time when Martin Taylor left and will act very well again."

In the eyes of many there is no doubt that Barclays is a far steadier ship than it was when Mr Taylor left in November. This is a testimony to the leadership skills that Sir Peter ac-

quired during his days as a Treasury mandarin. But some observers are less sanguine. One said yesterday: "People forget that anyone who is sounded out for the job will feel that they are automatically seen as second best to Mike O'Neill. It is also very difficult to find someone of calibre who is not already locked in."

If Sir Peter comes up with the right chief executive as

quickly as he found Mr O'Neill, then all well and good.

But if the search drags on and it becomes evident that the bank is being hampered by not having a chief executive in place when the banking world is experiencing a major upheaval, shareholders might start getting restless. It is at this point that the blandishments of Sir George become less easy to resist.

## IN BRIEF

### British output still fails to impress

BRITAIN'S POOR post-war productivity record is highlighted in a new report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. The report, "Britain's productivity performance 1950-1996, An international perspective", finds that in 1996, levels of output per worker hour were about 20-30 per cent below those in the US, France and Germany although slightly greater than those in Japan. The report's author, Mary O'Mahony, also finds that Britain lags behind her competitors in stocks of physical and human capital.

### Japan's crisis blamed on 'rigidity'

URGENT REFORM of Japan's regulatory system is needed if the country is to avoid prolonged economic stagnation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) has warned. In a review of Japan's regulatory reform process the OECD said that structural rigidities resulting from an increasingly outmoded regulatory and institutional framework were to blame for the country's current economic crisis. "Japan has stood out among the G7 in its inability to adapt to the shocks of the Nineties, which have been common to many OECD countries," the report said. But while it called for greater informed debate inside Japan the OECD also said that the review, commissioned by the Japanese government, was a clear sign of its commitment to reform.

### Health firm chief earns over £1m

BILL CASTELL, the chief executive of the health technology group Nymed Amersham, netted over £1m from salary and share options last year. The Anglo-Norwegian's group annual report shows that in 1998 Mr Castell earned a total salary of £620,918, a 37.5 per cent rise on 1997. He also made over £287,000 from the exercise of share options awarded under the company's long-term incentive plan.

### Paris puts the brakes on spending

FRENCH GOVERNMENT spending will not be allowed to rise by more than 0.3 per cent in fiscal 2000 compared with a generous 1 per cent increase in the current year, French government sources said yesterday. The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, will send instructions to ministers later this week, in preparation for the finance bill which is to be submitted to the parliament in the autumn. Earlier indications said spending rises would be limited to 1 per cent over the next three years but no separate breakdowns had been set.

### Peel profits exceed expectations

PEEL HOTELS PLC yesterday reported its first set of results for the year ending 31 February 1999. The company's pre-tax profit of £754,264 exceeded forecasts that had been made by broker Peel Hunt. "As they're first results we can only compare them with our expectations. They've been exceeded so we're very pleased," said Peel Hunt broker Peter Joseph.

### British Telecom

THE SCALE on the graph of British Telecom's share price published in the Business Review section yesterday was incorrect. We apologise for any confusion caused.

## Daimler fined for blocking foreign buyers

THE EUROPEAN Commission yesterday said it plans to fine DaimlerChrysler after finding that the world's fifth biggest car-maker refused to sell cars to customers who crossed European borders seeking lower prices.

A two-year inquiry by the European Union's executive agency found evidence that DaimlerChrysler dealers in Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany broke EU antitrust rules by refusing to sell to foreigners between 1995 and 1996, said Stefan Rating, an EU spokesman.

"We have evidence of circulars sent to dealers encouraging them not to sell to foreigners," Mr Rating said, adding that the commission opened a legal proceeding this month against DaimlerChrysler by sending the company a formal list of its complaints.

The commission fined Volkswagen, Europe's largest car-maker, 102 million euros (\$110m) last year, after finding that its Italian dealers refused to sell cars to Germans and Austrians.

Mr Rating said DaimlerChrysler's offenses are "roughly" as serious as Volkswagen's while "more countries are involved", suggesting Daimler could face higher fines.

Car prices vary widely within the EU because of tax differences and currency fluctuations, which means people often travel to other countries to get lower prices.

The commission can fine companies a maximum of 10 per cent of their annual sales for antitrust violations, although it has never fined the maximum.

## COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Action Computer Supplies (I) 140.88m (100.12m)	2.72m (3.03m)	5.5p (8.5p)	1.35p (1.25p)	-	-	-
Co-operative Retail (F)	-	73.58m (56.02m)	6.34p (4.64p)	-	-	-
Gardiner Group (I)	30.36m (19.51m)	3.8m (2.01m)	12.4p (10.2p)	3p (2.7p)	-	-
Greysteel (F)	24.2m (23.4m)	9.4m (12.8m)	8.7p (10.6p)	1p (-)	-	-
High-Potential Retail Group (I)	12.4m (12.3m)	0.912m (0.759m)	3.5p (2.8p)	0.5p (nil)	-	-
IFS Group (F)	£128.83m (22.74m)	3.71m (2.3m)	7.15p (4.71p)	1p (-)	-	-
Mid-States (F)	67.45m (71.5m)	2.01m (4.18m)	3.2p (11.3p)	0.48p (0.3p)	-	-
Peel Hotels (F)	3.3m (-)	0.754m (-)	10p (-)	1p (-)	-	-

(F) - First (I) - Interim (Q) - Quarterly (SP) - Split Period (X) - Nine Months

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# Blue chips take a breather in hectic trading

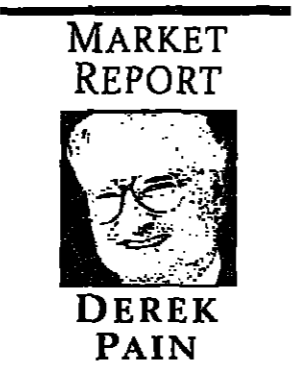
BLUE CHIPS, after stretching to yet another peak, paused for breath although shares on the stock market undercard took up the running.

It was another hectic day with rumours of corporate activity continuing to create excitement. In often squeaky conditions, some relatively modest deals had a dramatic impact on prices.

Footsie hit a 6,539.9 trading high, closing 19.5 down at 6,493.6. But the mid-cap index ended 45.1 higher at 6,637.5, still more than 300 below its peak, and the small cap index rose 15.3 to 2,443.8, nearly 350 from its low. Turnover was a heavy 1.3 billion shares.

Much of the takeover speculation was outside the charmed Footsie circle. London International, the condom maker that is involved in long-running bid talks, improved 15.5p to 167.5p in a sudden flurry of trading.

A US group is widely expected to be the predator. In January London International, an old takeover favourite, said it had received a "preliminary unsolicited proposal".



**MARKET REPORT**

**DEREK PAIN**

expectations that the Prudential Corporation, following the M&G takeover, will bid. But the gain was clipped to 17.5p at 297.5p as the parties involved poured cold water on the theory.

Burnham, the chemical group, had an eventful session. The shares were at one time rising 112p higher; they closed up 99p at 1,034p. The share performance, not surprisingly, fuelled rumours of bid activity. But the spark for the surge was probably two institutions charging in the market for stock and encouraging other buyers to take an interest.

Paper and packaging continued to benefit from the Scapa deal, with David S Smith gaining 10p to 133p and Arjo Wiggins Appleton moving ahead 8.5p to 171.5p.

British Steel was back in demand. The shares rose 10.25p to 148.75p with talk of analysts upgrading. CSFB was thought to have repeated its buy advice on expectations of industry get-togethers. The shares have fallen from 172p in the past year as trading prospects deteriorated. BS is expected to have suffered a loss approaching £100m in the year ended last month.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster still smarting from its Manchester United red card, was switched on by Investec Henderson Crosthwaite (IHC). The shares jumped 18p to 559.5p after analyst Mathew Horsman lifted his target price to 630p from 580p.

The group's joint Internet service, Open, has prompted the IHC upgrade. Open delivers such treats as electronic home shopping and banking. Its base valuation is put at £1.4bn, worth 27p to BSkyB and about 7p to the other major partner BT. HSBC and Japan's Matsushita also have interests in Open. IHC is holding its BSkyB profit forecasts at £130m for this year and £183m for next.

Trying to spot the Buffett

target was another factor behind some of the blue chip gains. Warren Buffett, the legendary US investor, has said he is near to declaring a 3 per cent stake in a British group.

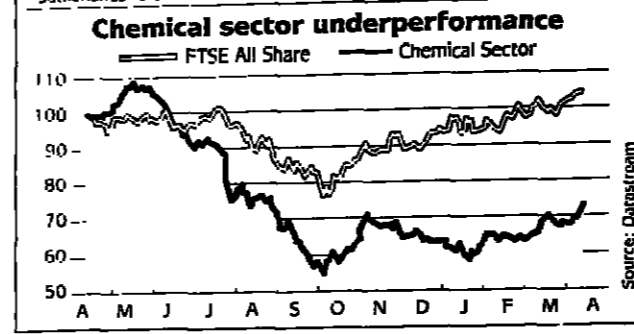
British Airways, up 32.5p to 320.5p, is the new choice although Cadbury Schweppes remained in favour, firming 18.5p to 833p. Allied Domecq, up 18.5p at 485.5p, emerged as an outside runner. So did Ladbrokes, the betting and hotel chain, with a 5.5p center to 286.5p.

Imperial Chemical Industries was the best performing blue chip. The sage of Omaha could have been a bit but reports that it was at last near to clinching a major assets sale was probably the major influence behind a 47.5p jump to 635.5p. ICI's disposal programme has so far caused dismay with the industrial group failing to deliver the sales the market anticipated.

Airtours was little changed at 501p and rival Thomson was a shade firmer at 177.5p. WestLB Parimut rates the shares. There is also continuing spec-

## CHEMICALS: AT A GLANCE

Company	1999 P/E ratio*	1999 Net yield %
Albright & Wilson	15.4	4.8
BOC	18.8	3.7
BTP	18.9	3.7
Burmah Castrol	15.5	4.7
Croda	15.7	4.6
Hickson	9.6	3.7
ICI	26.2	5.8
Laporte	14.7	4.6
Yule Catto	11.3	3.4



growth prospects, such as Laporte, BTP and Yule Catto.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see all those companies are flirting, and that will probably translate into mergers sooner rather than later," one fund manager said.

The key driver for the latest bout of merger fever is the low valuation of a number of UK producers. Chemical companies' earnings have been hit hard by a combination of the strong pound, slowing demand in the crisis-ridden Far East and a cyclical downturn in the industry. This triple whammy has been compounded by the market's dislike for small and medium cap stocks, which make up a large portion of the chemical sector. These troubles depressed investors' sentiment leading the UK chemical sector index to underperform the market by around 40 per cent over the past eight months.

The low ratings of many UK companies contrast with their good growth prospects. Martin Evans, head of research at the stockbroker Sutherland, believes that the sector has been oversold.

"The fundamentals of many of these companies are very good. The market has over re-

## Passenger numbers in BAA airports hit record

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

A RECORD 112.5 million passengers passed through the seven airports owned by BAA in the year to March, according to figures published yesterday.

Stansted was the group's fastest growing airport with a 35 per cent surge in passenger numbers to 7.4 million.

This represented an increase of 1.9 million passengers, which was only just behind the extra 2.2 million at Gatwick and 2.9 million at Heathrow.

"In the past Stansted was so small that even 35.4 per cent growth would have had little impact on BAA's figures," the company noted.

"Stansted is now firmly established as a major force in the London airports system."

In March the Essex-based airport handled 644,900 passengers, 57.8 per cent more than the same month in 1998.

The airport has benefited from the scarcity of slots and higher handling and landing charges at Gatwick and Heathrow.

It has also attracted budget airlines such as British Airways' Go and Ryanair.

The success made up for a 5 per cent fall in passengers passing through Aberdeen in March, which BAA said was due to a fall in pre-Easter business traffic and "an uncertain oil market". Over the 12 months it grew just 0.5 per cent.

Overall BAA's seven airports, which also include Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Southampton achieved a 7.6 per cent annual rise.

European scheduled traffic grew by 9.2 per cent, with routes to the Irish Republic seeing the fastest growth rate of 13 per cent.

New capacity and competitive air fares boosted the North American market by 9.7 per cent.

But the impact of the slump in South-east Asia and Japan held back growth of other long-haul services to 6.3 per cent.

## Greycoat shares soar in bid battle

SHARES OF property group Greycoat soared yesterday on news of a 29 per cent increase in net asset value to 283p per share, helping the company in its fight against a £218m takeover attempt by rival Delancey Estates, controlled by George Soros.

Greycoat shares closed up 10.9 per cent at 234.5p as the managing director, Peter Thornton, again rejected the Delancey paper bid of 194p per share as "derisory".

Mr Thornton yesterday officially invited higher bids for Greycoat, which has a one-

third stake in the NatWest Tower in the City, after confirming on the record that the business was up for sale.

However, he stressed that the decision had been planned, irrespective of the Delancey bid.

Speculation persists that Delancey may make a higher bid, but the favourites to mount a counter bid for Greycoat include rival property groups Hammerson and Land Securities, or a bidder from overseas.

The sale process is being arranged by NM Rothschild,

with tenders invited by 19 May. "We knew when we started our development cycle in 1994 that we'd see increases in this period," said Mr Thornton.

"We started discussions with our shareholders last December and decided the logical time for a sale would be after our surpluses were announced."

"Had Delancey spoken to us they might have gleaned this process was going on, rather than spending a large amount of shareholders' money in launching an aggressive bid."

Analysts said it now looked increasingly unlikely that Delancey would win the bidding for the company.

Several analysts had expected to see Greycoat's net asset value rise, but by a smaller margin.

Ray Jones, a property analyst at Commerzbank, said: "The NAV is very good, well above most people's forecasts."

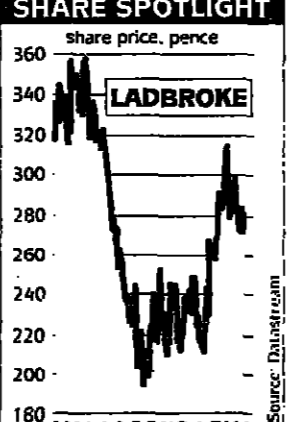
Floris van Dijkum, a property analyst at Morgan Stanley, added: "Whether Delancey wins the company or not, they're going to look very smart because of the 30 per cent gain they'll make on their investment in Greycoat."

**ELECTRONIC Fundraising**, one of the fringe off-share market's best performers, is on its way to Nasdaq and, surprisingly, the Bermuda Stock Exchange. Negotiations for the share listings "are at an advanced stage", said chairman David Vanrenen. The company, which is involved in marketing lottery games on the Internet, suffered a £901,000 loss in the three months ended March. The shares fell 5p to 325p, capitalising the group at £21m.

There was more excitement on the banking pitch. Barclays ended 25p higher at 1,944p and rumoured bidder Royal Bank of Scotland rose 19p to 1,444p. But Halifax, selling its estate agency chain, fell 8.5p to 855.5p. An upbeat trading statement and an expression of interest in the Halifax outlets lifted Countrywide Assured 11.5p to 155.5p.

Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, firmed 37.5p to 1,787.5p as hostile stalker Johnston Press increased its interest to 17.35 per cent.

St James Place, the life insurer, was busily trading, climbing 32p at one time on



**CAMBRIDGE MINERAL Resources** is to accelerate its diamond exploration in Ireland's County Donegal, by using airborne surveys.

The results so far from the two-year hunt have prompted the company, after evaluation by independent geological consultants, to move to the second stage of its programme, which has so far cost £250,000.

CMR shares held at 8p; they have been 18.25p and were down to 5.5p earlier this year.

ulation that Airtours could barge into the First Choice/Swiss merger. First Choice rose 3p to 177p.

Eurotunnel gained 6.5p to 99p as the struggling group emerged as a telephone play. The Anglo-French operation is using the cross-channel tunnel's infrastructure to run a telecoms network and the service between London and Paris made up 70 per cent of last year's £8.9m sales.

London Pacific, the latest Internet play, jumped 114p to 507.5p, a two-day gain of 288p. Fiat Technologies, on its broadcast systems sale, added a further 15p to 62.5p and textile struggler Dawson International knitted a 4p gain to 21p, seemingly on the back of buying by Guinness Peat, one of the market's more aggressive investors.

Preston North End, the football club, fell 15p to 330p; it raised £60,000, placing shares at 328p.

BATM Advanced Communications, which has climbed from 145p to 483p in 12 months, lost a little of its exuberance, falling 19.5p to 463.5p. Figures are due later this month and the company said it intends to move to a full listing from AIM.

**SEAQ VOLUME: 1.3bn**  
**SEAQ TRADER: 89,023**  
**GILTS INDEX: 114.12 -0.07**

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

**Rent trouble at LTCM**

LONG-TERM Capital Management (LTCM), the hedge fund whose near-collapse almost caused a global meltdown last year, is being sued by its landlord for \$2.7m in back rent.

The sum claimed by Pinnacle Corporation, which has itself gone bust, may appear piddling in comparison with LTCM's former size - it controlled \$125bn before last year's crisis - but it has managed to rattle the hedge fund.

Lawyers for LTCM said they had no intention of vacating the disputed offices in Greenwich, Connecticut, despite Pinnacle's claims that it owes two years' rent.

James Rickards, general counsel for LTCM, said: "This is a publicity stunt and a delaying tactic by a bankrupt landlord."

Last September a group of 14 banks led by Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch pumped

## Arms party

THE BELGIAN who was appointed chief executive of Vickers last year, Paul Buysse (pronounced "bursar"), had a reception at the Belgian embassy thrown in his honour on Wednesday night.

The glittering occasion attracted many of the biggest players in the British arms industry.

The party was in recognition of the honours Mr Buysse has received both here and in Belgium. When he arrived at Vickers last year he sported the Belgian title "Chevalier". A few

## Rugby fever

RUGBY WAS in the air the night that Hephre Group Plc won the "Pic of the Year" award this week. The top team from the company, which specialises in replacement vehicles for clients involved in accidents, was out in force for the recent ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Mark Jackson, the deputy chief executive and founder of Hephre, was joined by John Mumford, corporate finance director at Williams de Broe, Hephre's brokers.

Once the trophy had been presented, rugby madness took hold and Mr Mumford tried to "pass" the award to rugby-mad Mr Jackson - who failed to catch it. The trophy suffered somewhat as a result. Maybe Hephre should start a service for replacement awards...

## Difficult deals

TALKING OF awards, Jon Moulton, that stalwart of the

venture capital industry, collected the "Equity Provider of the Year" award at Tuesday's Acquisitions Monthly bash at the Cafe Royal on behalf of his latest enterprise, Alchemy Partners.

Before co-founding Alchemy, a private equity boutique, in January 1997, Mr Moulton started off at Citicorp Venture Capital, moving to Schroders in the late 1980s and then Apex Partners.

Alchemy completed 27 transactions last year, placing it second in the league table behind 3i.

Mr Moulton, a chess fanatic in his spare time, is known in the Square Mile as the king of the public-to-private deal at the moment.

His boutique took Ushers, the Trowbridge brewers, private and recently backed the unsuccessful management buyout offer of Vaux breweries.

As a spokesman for Alchemy said: "They specialise in difficult deals."

Country	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	1.0000	0.6304	0.6207	0.6206
Australia	2.5332	1.5722	1.5722	1.5722
Austria	20.554	20.554	20.554	20.554
Canada	60.152	39.901	37.409	37.193
Denmark	11.098	11.077	11.038	11.038
Euro	1.4946	0.8659	0.8659	0.8659
France	9.804	9.781	9.740	9.740
Germany	2.931	2.912	2.904	2.904
Greece	484.84	485.17	489.31	489.31
Hong Kong	12.490	12.486	12.489	12.489
Ireland	1.171	1.173	1.174	1.174
Italy	289.7	289.7	289.7	289.7
Japan	191.64	190.78	189.19	188.16
Malaysia	6.1247	6.2550	6.4584	6.4584
Mexico	15.32	15.32	15.32	15.32
Netherlands	3.2937	3.2960	3.2723	3.2723
New Zealand	2.7473	2.7473	2.7473	2.7473
Norway	12.431	12.467	12.468	12.468
Portugal	299.65	298.94	297.70	297.70
Saudi Arabia	0.0445	0.0450	0.0516	0.0516
Singapore	2.7168	2.7171	2.7251	2.7251
South Africa	5.7574	5.8656	10.0080	10.0080
Spain	248.69	248.10	247.07	247.07
Sweden	13.366	13.308	13.257	13.257
Switzerland	3.9978	2.3887	2.3724	2.3724
US	1.6118	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Country	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
US	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
France	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Italy	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Spain	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Sweden	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Switzerland	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
US	5.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. 100	Open
Long Gilt	Jun-99	117.88	118.15	117.36	18266.00
5 yr Gilt	Jun-99	118.18	118.18	118.18	80618.00
German Bund	Jun-99	115.82	115.82	115.82	36150.00
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.73	114.88	114.68	5562.00
Japan Govt Bd	Jun-99	133.33	133.33	133.33	1138.00
3 Mth Sec Govt	Jun-99	94.85	94.85	94.85	188358.00
3 Mth Euribor	Jun-99	94.87	94.87	94.87	194942.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-99	97.38	97.38	97.37	28233.00
3 Mth Euroswap	Jun-99	97.39	97.39	97.37	212316.00
3 Mth Euro Libor	Jun-99	97.41	97.41	97.38	20411.00
FTSE 100	Jun-99	6534.00	6592.00	6501.00	22899.00

Commodity	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Aluminium HG	1281.5	1282.5	-2.50	1303.5
Aluminium Alloy	1165	1170	-5.00	1182
Copper A	1422	1423	-2.00	1449
Lead	518	519	13.00	519
Nickel	4995	5005	95.00	5070
Tin	5305	5315	-30.00	5290
Zinc	994.5	995.5	-10.14	1015

Country	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Argentina	1.6077	0.9975	0.9975	0.9975
Brazil	2.6886	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
China	13.344	8.2794	8.2794	8.2794
Czech Rep	56.480	56.480	56.480	56.480
Egypt	5.8904	5.8904	5.8904	5.8904
Ghana	3929.0	2437.8	2437.8	2437.8
Hungary	378.55	234.87	234.87	234.87
India	68.902	42.750	42.750	42.750
Indonesia	13.869	86.000	86.000	86.000
Kuwait	0.4932	0.3690	0.3690	0.3690
Nigeria	140.14	86.950	86.950	86.950

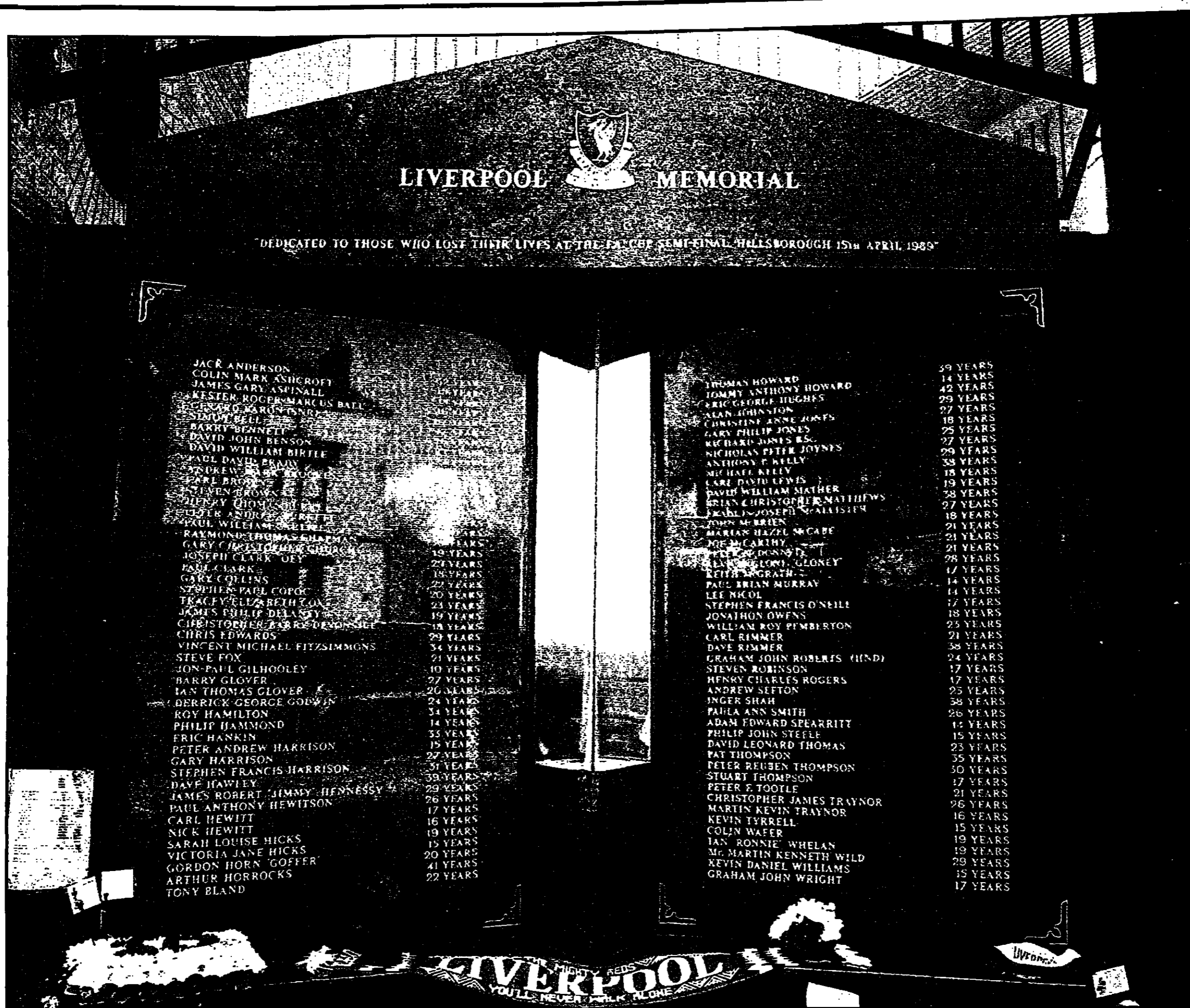
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Hungary	378.55	234.87	234.87	234.87
India	68.902	42.750	42.750	42.750
Indonesia	13.869	86.000	86.000	86.000
Kuwait	0.4932	0.3690	0.3690	0.3690
Nigeria	140.14	86.950	86.950	86.950

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## SPORT



The Hillsborough memorial at Anfield commemorates those who died 10 years ago. The Taylor Report called for a 'fullest reassessment' of football in Britain — yet the sport is still in turmoil

Mercury

# A game in search of its soul

HIS final report on the Hillsborough disaster, which had been unning in its criticism of the ort's leadership from the Football sation down, Lord Justice ylor called for "the fullest reassessment of policy for the game". In the wake of this the Football ague produced a proposal for ver sharing with the FA. The FA sponded in June 1991 with its 9-page "Blueprint for the Future Football". This did not just reject : League's approach, it also emas- ated the organisation by cream- g off the top clubs to create the FA remier League. The aim, the blueprint admitted, was to establish the FA as Government of e game in England.

The document added that the FA's rime objective was "establishing e England team at the apex of the ramid of playing excellence". To at end the FA Premier League, ich was to be "governed by a com- ittee of the FA" and would consist 18 clubs, was being created to fore- all a "break-away league [which] ould be driven by commercial onsiderations" rather than "a de- re to elevate the England team".

Admirable sentiments, but in the ght of Premiership clubs now rasping every penny they can, of ubs threatening to withdraw their layers from England's forthcoming iendly in Hungary and the FA's raven decision to field a third- ring Under-20 side in this month's -world Championships in Nigeria hus enabling Matthew Upson to lay for Arsenal reserves and Joe ole for West Ham's youth team), ey are also laughable.

When the Premier League was nstructed the amateurs of the FA ere utterly outmanoeuvred by the ussinessmen of the Premier eague. The FA has no input on ecision-making by the Premier eague, which is run by the 20 club hairmen and a chief executive and hairman appointed by them (and, n the case of Peter Leaver and Sir ohn Quinton, recently deposed by em, too). The League has no

plans to reduce to 20 clubs though Arsenal and Manchester United, with an eye on their own European ambitions not the England team, have pushed for it. Crucially, the FA has no input on how the Premier League's wealth is distributed.

The consequences we reviewed yesterday. The glamorous Premier League is bathed in sunlight, with the impoverished Football League cast into its shadow. An atmosphere exists of rampant commercialism which prices out bedrock supporters while enriching directors. There is a total disregard for the mass of park players.

The future, if this continues unchecked, is worrying. Already the gulf between the Premier and Football League has grown to the extent that it can only be bridged by a rich benefactor, such as Jack Walker or Mohamed Al Fayed. A similar gap has developed within the Premiership itself. Even if well-run and managed clubs such as Charlton survive in the Premier League they will never challenge for the title. The dream that sustains supporters of lesser clubs is in danger of becoming a fantasy.

The only solution is some form of regulation, either internal, as with

The post-Hillsborough plan for the national game has failed to create a brighter, safer future for football. That will only occur if the Premiership clubs' dominance is curbed. By Glenn Moore

the Press Complaints Commission in the newspaper industry, or external, through a Government-appointed ombudsman or watchdog such as Ofcom, which regulates the telecommunications industry.

The sport would prefer self-regulation and in recent years, the FA has done much to suggest it could regain a measure of control over the game. On the pitch, Howard Wilkinson's reforms as technical director should benefit the development of young players and the national team; off it, the FA has become proactive rather than reactive.

Though still hindered by an unwieldy bureaucracy, it is attempting to streamline its structure (the proposals are "going through the various committees", a spokesman said with unintentional irony). It is also attempting to give some form of moral lead to the game. This is easier now that Keith Wiseman, who made a fortune through his shareholding in Southampton, is no longer

FA chairman, but it is still inevitably compromised by the success, commercially speaking, of its merchandising arm.

However, the FA's power is limited. Most crucially it does not control the Premier League. Thus any form of self-regulation must include the Premiership chairmen. Unfortunately, while most senior FA figures appear to have the broader interests of the game at heart this cannot be said of some club chairmen, though there are exceptions.

The pils, by definition, have to put their shareholders' interests (that is, profits) above all else and Aston Villa's refusal to pay Brighton the compensation fee agreed for their poaching of Gareth Barry (it had to be deducted from their television money at source) is typical of many Premiership clubs' view on lower division teams. As long ago as 1985 Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, said: "The smaller clubs are bleeding the game

dry. For the sake of the game, they should be put to sleep."

The pathetic hand-outs to the Football Trust from their TV income (less than five per cent of the £170m each year) underlines the self-interest that pervades the Premiership. Recently they were unable even to agree among themselves on opening a chain of merchandise stores across Europe. The arguments centred on the sharing out of the profits. Sir John Quinton's parting remark after his resignation was that the chairmen should stop bickering among themselves.

While four clubs can be relegated from Italy's 18-team Serie A, many in the Premiership want to reduce the link with the Football League to two-up, two-down. Some would prefer to end the practice altogether, so protecting their investments.

Some of the new millionaires football has created claim they did not seek a fortune. Peter Johnson, the chairman of Everton, told the au-

thor David Conn, in his excellent analysis of the game, *The Football Business*, "I didn't know I would make money. It was an accident." Johnson still seeks to take a profit in the region of £50m from his £20m investment; allowing the club to keep his windfall appears not to have occurred to him.

So, if the power brokers of the game cannot be trusted to regulate themselves, the Government will have to step in. The political will, it seems, may exist, especially with the Government so closely connected to the World Cup 2006 bid. Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's confidant, wrote in the *Observer* recently: "Football is running out of time to organise itself. This Government [is] not about to sit back and watch the shambles at the top of our national game much longer."

David Mellor's Football Task Force, after dealing with a series of soft issues, is now investigating the financial side of the game from ticket prices to share flotations. The prospect of establishing a regulatory body will be among the subjects reviewed in the report, which is due out in about eight weeks' time.

While Government intervention

carries the risk of too much interference (as well as being forbidden by Fifa, the game's world governing body) some form of independent regulation, along the lines of that established for the privatised industries, ought to be possible. The first task of an "Offoot" would be to redistribute some of the wealth being garnered by the Premier League.

This money — at least 25 per cent of any TV deal — could be administered by the Football Trust, which is probably the only body in the game genuinely committed to improving the sport at all levels. It also has close links with Government. Tom Pendry, a long-serving opposition spokesman on sport when Labour were out of power, is its chairman.

Offoot could then enforce the streamlining of the FA and bring the Premier League back under its control. If this is impossible, a new umbrella body could be established. Either way supporters should have a greater say, even to the extent of assisting them in club buy-outs, as has happened with good effect at Bournemouth.

In the meantime there are several short-term measures the Government could undertake. A windfall tax on the men who have made fortunes from the game, combined with a levy on football betting, could provide immediate financial help.

A law restricting satellite coverage of matches may also be considered, although it need not be as draconian as the one imposed in Italy to keep Rupert Murdoch out. In many respects Sky's coverage has been beneficial.

Last, but certainly not least, the Government should reopen the inquest into the deaths at Hillsborough. There has been a wealth of new evidence since both Dr Stefan Popper's original inquest and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith's unsympathetic review. Football cannot move on until the families of the Hillsborough victims, and the survivors, are able to do so.

## Long haul to implement Taylor Report

BY NICK HARRIS

WHEN LORD Justice Taylor's interim report into the Hillsborough disaster was published in August 1989 it spoke volumes about the tragedy that had been waiting to happen prior to the events of 15 April that cost 96 people their lives.

It concluded that the country's football grounds were potential death traps. Hillsborough had been dangerous, but for stadiums at the time it was still one of the best. The lack of signposts that had contributed to thousands of people overloading fenced pens when there were empty terraces a few metres away was awful but common.

The interim report made 28 recommendations to be implemented immediately including maximum crowd levels for pens (there were often none); that each club should have a doctor on hand at each match; that crush barriers should be checked for rust; that turnstiles should work; that there should be written agreement between police and clubs setting out responsibilities.

That these and the others were not already in place was bad enough, but the final report, published in January 1990, was more damning still.

"The picture revealed is of a general malaise or blight over the game due to a number of factors," Taylor wrote. "Principally these are: old grounds, poor facilities, hooliganism, excessive drinking and poor leadership." He added: "The safety and comfort of those on the terraces has not been regarded as a priority." The conclusion was stark: "This inhospitable scene tends to breed bad manners and poor behaviour. The atmosphere does not encourage pride in the ground or consideration for others."

Taylor proposed, among other things, that all-seater stadiums be introduced in the top two divisions by

1994-95, that grounds had meaningful safety certificates, and that there be better communication between police and clubs. The cost of the changes was put at £130m.

Ten years on, around £560m has been spent on Taylor-related projects. The Football Trust — given the remit to implement the Taylor report and funded by pools' companies and football sources — has contributed £180m of that. The rest has come from the clubs and the Trust feels that Taylor has been implemented effectively by most clubs in the Premier League and Nationwide First Division. Today the Trust will announce that the

grant ceiling available to Second and Third Division clubs for improvements will rise to £2m from £1.7m.

But while 11 new stadiums have been built by clubs from Millwall to Middlesbrough, and while policing and stewarding have become more effective, there is more to be done.

How many lower division clubs are struggling to keep up? How often is the law on offensive language enforced? How often do you still see ticket-touting, which was made illegal under the Criminal Justice Act? These might be details, but pre-Hillsborough so were a lot of other things, effective signs included.

# Prichard restores the pride

IT IS said that everything goes in threes, and nowhere could there be a better illustration than here. For various reasons - form or injury - 1998 was an unhappy summer for Paul Prichard, Darren Maddy and James Whitaker.

It is arguable as to whether their luck has improved much this year, judging by yesterday's goings-on. At least the first two managed to score some runs, although they would not have been pleased with their share, and at least the Leicestershire captain, Whitaker, is now ambulant again after undergoing a couple of knee operations last year.

In Prichard's case his contribution, however frustrating from a personal point of view, did much to spare Essex's blushes and earn them a couple of bonus points that they could so easily have missed. He then had the pleasure of seeing Leicestershire begin the defence of their title with a degree of uncertainty.

Prichard had misused an attempted pull, a horrible-looking shot, when he was a mere nine runs from what would have been a very welcome century, his first since August 97. Still, it was almost four times his highest score last year. It was a deep disappointment to the crowd and to the man, but at least there was a more assured air to the former captain and a certain amount of fluency as he hammered 14 fours.

Maddy also fell short of a landmark, having put a lean year behind him as he cruised to a good-looking 46. At that point the penetrative Mark Iltis drew him half forward and found enough of a gap to knock

## CRICKET

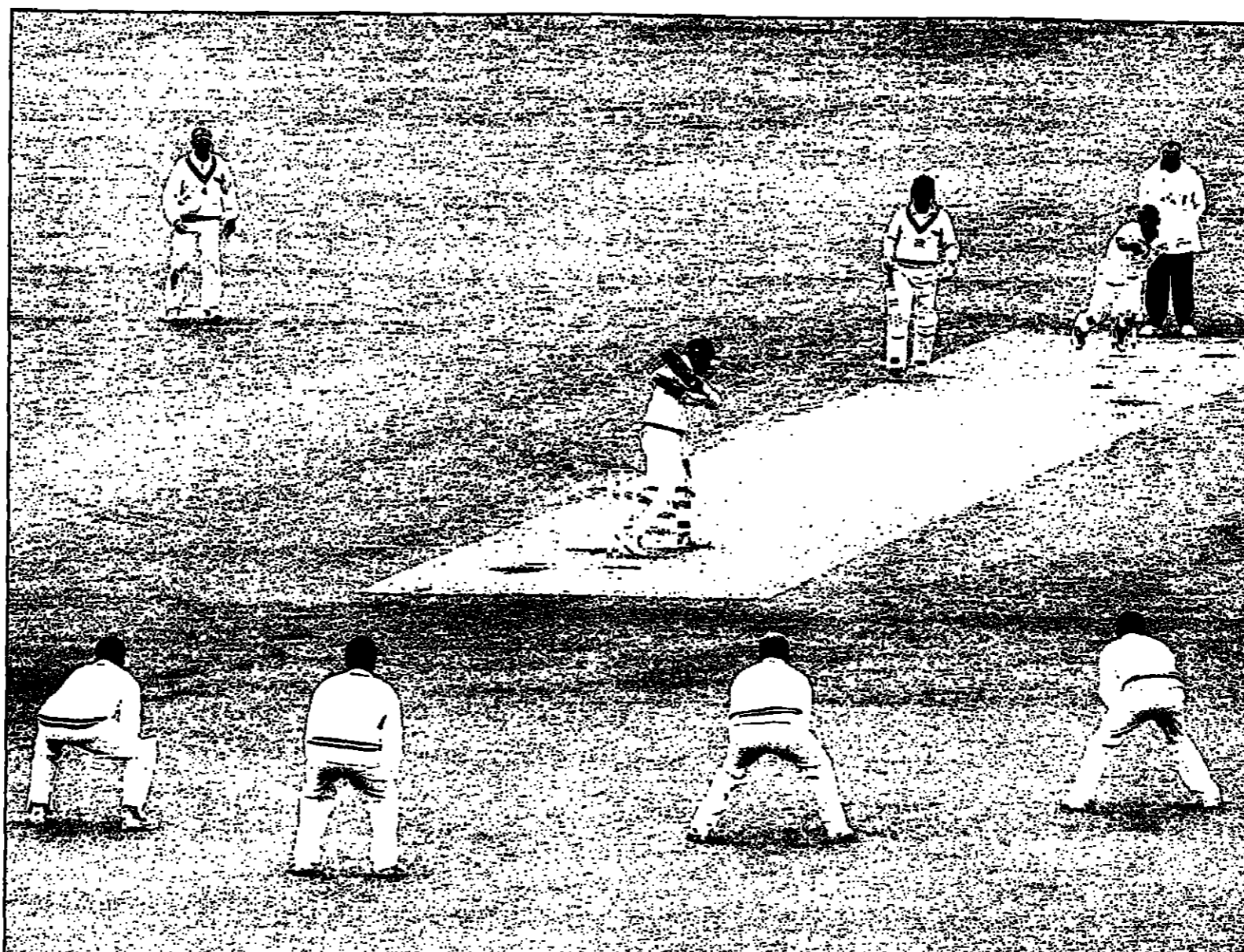
BY DAVID LLEWELLYN  
at Chelmsford

Essex 253  
Leicestershire 123-4

over his poles. Leicestershire had already lost Iain Soutcliffe, who had pecked and scratched around for precious few runs, and Maddy's wicket was quickly followed by that of another big hope, the prolific Aftab Habib. Enter Whitaker, who is approaching his 37th birthday. His last Championship match was against Durham in 1997, after which he underwent operations in December and again in June last year to repair his left knee. He does not expect to play a big part in his county's one-day campaign, but he will have to do something to restore Leicestershire's fortunes in this match.

In fact, by the time Iltis had finished with Leicestershire Essex had achieved something of a role reversal. Bottom of the table they may have been last year, but, until bad light cut proceedings short with a handful of overs remaining, they certainly look to have the upper hand here.

A lot could now depend on how Whitaker's luck goes today. He struggled a little with his timing, but he managed to do what the younger elements of his team failed signally to do: to hang around. Not only that, but he and another seasoned campaigner, Paul Nixon, dug in and nudged Leicestershire to within 130 runs of what may well prove to be an inadequate Essex first-innings score.



The Middlesex batsman David Nash takes his bat out of the way of a rapid delivery from Kent's Dean Headley yesterday Robert Hallam

## Middlesex prove brittle in the cold

AFTER A wasted first day during which just 10 overs were achieved, although in precisely the same weather The Oval managed nearly five times as many, the Lord's season got under way with some cold and cautious cricket yesterday.

Kent, who had chosen to bowl, could perhaps take most satisfaction from an undistinguished day, although having cut Middlesex back to 194 for 7 they were frustrated by a determined repair job carried out by top-scorer David Nash and James Hewitt. Matthew Fleming, Kent's

BY JOHN COLLIS  
at Lord's

Middlesex 254  
Kent 21-1

new captain, permuted his four seam bowlers in short, warming shifts while leaving his spinner Min Patel shivering until late afternoon.

So delighted was the left-arm to be given something to do that he responded by breaking the stubborn alliance between Nash and Hewitt, gave Simon Cook a golden duck on his first-class debut, and com-

pleted a useful spell by trapping Richard Johnson.

The most impressive of the quicker men was Kent's moonlighting gynaecologist Dr Julian Thompson, preferred to Martin McCague for his ability to move the ball around on the early-season turf. It was he who accounted for the dangerous Justin Langer, a man who needs to pass 50 merely to maintain his career average.

Although Dean Headley, a yard faster than anyone else in the game, bowled with venom, it was the lateral swerve and bounce of Thompson that

reaped the richest reward of four economical wickets - Langer drove too loosely, Richard Kettleborough pushed half heartedly, Paul Weekes miscued a drive that steeped into the air and Phil Tufnell dabbed timorously to point.

Kent's replacement for Carl Hooper this year is the Australian Andrew Symonds, born in Birmingham, who withdrew from an England A tour so that he could remain qualified for the country that suits his accent. Hired principally as a big-hitting batsman, his CV also offers off-spin and the mus-

cular seam bowling that he employed yesterday. He often slipped past the bat, but without success.

Apart from the enterprise of Langer and Nash, and the lower-order biffing of Hewitt and Johnson, the Middlesex batting had the familiar hallmarks of chilly April - a tentative suspicion of pace and pitch and uncertainty of timing.

In the evening coda, Cook was compensated for his brief innings by first use of the new ball. He is sharp and straight and Ed Smith's wicket will have helped him sleep better.

## Bicknell's last-wicket fightback

A 10TH-WICKET partnership of 59 plus two early wickets in Gloucestershire's reply tilted the balance of this meeting between two of last season's Championship bridesmaids firmly in favour of the hosts at the end of an absorbing day's play.

When Alex Tudor was ninth out for Surrey with the score at 283, Gloucestershire had every reason to be pleased with the situation. But Surrey bat all the way down, and yesterday's opponents may not be the last to flounder at the final obstacle this year as Gloucestershire did yesterday, with No 11 Martin Bicknell hitting seven fours in an undefeated 49 in tandem with Ian Salisbury.

When Gloucestershire batted the same pair inflicted further wounds, first Bicknell's outswinger accounting for Kim

BY ADAM SZRETER  
at The Oval

Surrey 342  
Gloucestershire 55-2

Barnett and then Salisbury's goosy bamboozling Dominic Hewson.

In the morning, the notion that Gloucestershire might toil for their wickets on a surface that had behaved impeccably on a truncated first day seemed to have been swiftly disabused, appropriately enough with a touch of the Harvey Smiths on Gloucestershire's part.

Mark Butcher, impressive for his 68 on Tuesday, fell yesterday to the first ball he received, chopping on to his stumps after attempting to cut one from Mike Smith that was too close to his body.

Ian Ward continued to play

attractively after his captain's departure but his new partner, Jason Ratcliffe, became horribly bogged down. He eventually was bowled by Ian Harvey, shouldering arms, having faced 26 balls without scoring.

Thereafter things went from bad to worse for Surrey for a time. Nadeem Shahid, Ally Brown and finally Ward all fell in quick succession, Shahid to a fine diving catch by Matt Windows at square leg and Ward contentiously low, both victims of Harvey's well-disguised slower ball. Brown, having flicked Smith off his toes for six at the end of one over, fell leg before to the first ball of the bowler's next, departing like Ward with some reluctance.

At 179 for 5, having started the day on 124 without loss, Ben Hollis and the wicketkeeper Jonathan Batty now needed to

steady the ship, which they did to good effect adding 69, including two Hollis sixes, before a full delivery from the off-spinner Michael Ball dropped on to Hollis's toes and he was gone for 49.

Shortly afterwards Batty, flashing at Smith, was dropped by Ball at first slip but Gary Butcher, making his debut, lost his middle stump to the very next delivery, bowled by Jon Lewis. Smith, however, was not finished with Batty, dropping a sharp return catch in his next over before finding the perfect inswinger to beat the batsman's forward defensive posture. When Tudor provided Smith with his fourth wicket of the day it looked as though the Gloucestershire left-earner had given his team the edge, but Bicknell, ably assisted by Salisbury, changed all that.

## Hemp soaks up pressure

PERHAPS THE pavilion clock was to blame. Still running an hour behind thanks to a ground-staff oversight, its refusal to acknowledge British Summer Time seemed appropriately symbolic as the few huddled knots of spectators, stoccal as only cricket nuts can be in the face of advancing hypothermia, endured a four-hour wait for play to begin here yesterday.

The umpires pondered what to do about a strip of wet ground bisecting the bowler's run-up area at the Pavilion End. Unlike the pitch, it had been exposed to a deluge of rain, hail and sleet on Tuesday.

The possibility of pegging down a strip of matting was considered but rejected. Ultimately, although the official line was that conditions were unfit, the respective captains took matters into their own

BY JON CULLEY  
at Edgbaston

Warwickshire 126-3  
Northamptonshire

hands and decided to get on with it, regardless.

The muddiest hit coincided precisely with the bowler's take-off stride, although it seemed to be no impediment to Paul Taylor, the Northamptonshire left-arm, who bowled 14 overs either side of tea and came through with all limbs intact. He claimed a wicket when Michael Powell, opening with Mark Wagh, gingerly prodded a catch to short leg and deserved to see off David Hemp as well. But the left-hander escaped a chance to second slip on 13, sliced another Taylor ball over the slips on 15 and almost chopped one onto his stumps on 34.

Even so, it was better to be batting and a green pitch did not deter Neil Smith, the new Warwickshire captain, from making that choice. With Andy Moles and Brian Lara gone, and a quartet of recognised batsmen, headed by Nick Knight, unavailable, Smith had to play wicketkeeper Keith Piper at least two places above his station at No 5. Fortunately Hemp, riding his luck, came to his captain's aid.

The delay cost 57 overs. When play began a swinging loosener by Devon Malcolm hit Wagh on the toe and sent him back to the dressing room, lbw to the first delivery. Trevor Penney succumbed to a Malcolm outswinger and Piper to a bruised finger, courtesy of David Follett. But Hemp, who hit eight fours, was still there on 61 at the close.

## Century start for Sussex

RICHARD MONTGOMERIE and Toby Pearce shared Sussex's best opening stand for more than a year in their opening County Championship match at Old Trafford yesterday.

Sussex had managed only one century partnership for the first wicket since June 1997, but Montgomery and Pearce put on 136 to launch their new look side towards their total of 285 for 5 in 96 overs.

After the Lancashire ground-staff had scraped ice from the covers to allow play to get under way half an hour late, Montgomery, who moved to Sussex from Northamptonshire in the winter, justified the decision by his captain, Chris Adams, to bat by making 62 from 164 balls before edging Glen Chapple to Mark Chilton at second slip.

The left-handed Pearce went on to reach 77 from 204 balls, including eight fours, before being caught behind off Peter Martin. Adams hit his third ball from

Mike Watkinson for six to get off the mark but also fell caught behind, for 26, to give Lancashire's debutant seamer, Mike Smethurst, his first Championship wicket.

Tony Cottee fell for 46, on his debut after leaving Glamorgan, but Sussex will resume this morning well in charge.

## PPF Healthcare County Championship

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGBASTON (Day 1 of 4): Warwickshire have scored 126 for 2 wickets against Northamptonshire.

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
M A Wagh lbw b Malcolm	0	0	1	0	0
M J Powell c Loye b Taylor	21	0	1	52	65
D L Kemp not out	60	1	8	145	179
T L Panyu c Ripley b Malcolm	6	0	1	12	16
H K Piper not out	0	0	0	13	24
D R Brown not out	28	0	4	59	71
Extras (lb2)	2				
Total (for 3, 47 overs)	126				

Fall: 1-0, 2-36, 3-59.

To bat: M M Smith, A F Giles, G Welch, T A Munton, E S H Giddins.

Bowling: D E Malcolm 12-1-43-2, J P Taylor 14-5-27-1, G P Swann 7-4-0-0, D Follett 5-0-30-0, A L Penberthy 9-4-18-0.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead.

Durham v Worcestershire

RIVERSIDE (Day 2 of 4): Durham trail Worcestershire by 120 runs with 9 first-innings wickets in hand.

Durham won toss

WORCESTERSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
W P C Weston c Daley b Betts	2	0	0	8	6
P R Pollard lbw b Brown	14	0	2	48	61
V S Solanki lbw b Betts	0	1	3	6	6
D A Leathdale c Daley b Brown	85	0	14	139	179
E J Wilson c Betts b Brown	0	0	6	8	8
T S Rhodes c Speight b Harrison	15	0	1	41	55
S R Lampitt c Collingwood b Harrison	1	0	0	9	7
R K Illingworth c Speight b Brown	13	0	1	31	40
A Sherjar b Brown	11	0	2	18	29
J M de la Pena c Speight b Brown	0	0	0	5	6
C G Upton not out	0	0	0	7	7
Extras (lb2 nb4)	7				
Total (52.1 overs)	152				

Fall: 1-3, 2-7, 3-33, 4-35, 5-77, 6-82, 7-136, 8-141, 9-145.

Bowling: S J E Brown 15.1-6-25-6, M M Betts 12-2-46-2, J Wood 12-3-39-0, S J Harrison 8-2-20-2, M A Gough 3-1-7-0, P D Collingwood 2-0-12-0.

DURHAM - First Innings

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
J J B Lewis not out	18	0	2	34	84
M A Gough lbw b Sherjar	0	0	0	7	51
J E Morris not out	13	0	1	19	31
Extras (lb1)	1				
Total (for 1, 10 overs)	32				

Fall: 1-5.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

To bat: J A Daley, D C Boon, P D Collingwood, M P Speight, M M Betts, J Wood, S J E Brown, S J Harrison.

Bowling: A Sherjar 5-0-22-1, J M de la Pena 4-7-0, D A Leathdale 1-0-2-0, D C Boon and C Burgess.

Essex v Leicestershire

CHELMSFORD (Day 2 of 4): Leicestershire trail Essex by 130 runs with 6 first-innings wickets in hand.

Essex won toss

ESSEX - First Innings Overnight 91-2

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
P J Prichard c Lewis b Kasprzowicz	81	0	14	215	377
S G Law c Nixon b Ormond	49	0	9	85	172
*R C Irani b Lewis	10	0	2	22	35
A P Grayson run out	0	0	1	7	27
S D Peters lbw b Dalziel	0	0	0	2	0
R I Rollins c Nixon b Kasprzowicz	3	0	0	29	43
A P Cowan c Sutcliffe b Brimston	17	0	2	40	62
M C Ilett lbw b Ormond	16	0	1	35	61
P M Such not out	18	1	2	15	22
Extras (lb10 w2 nb23)	35				
Total (86.1 overs)	232				

Fall: 1-40, 2-45, 3-144, 4-181, 5-187, 6-187, 7-193, 8-204, 9-228.

Bowling: M S Kasprzowicz 28-10-78-3, C C Lewis 27-6-85-2, J Ormond 18-1-4-39-2, J M Dalziel 11-3-31-1, M T Brimston 2-1-9-1.

LEICESTERSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
D L Maddy b Iltis	46	0	7	64	90
J J Scriver c Rollins b Iltis	11	0	2	31	45
A Habib c Rollins b Iltis	3	0	0	26	50
B F Smith b Cowan	14	0	2	32	40
J J Whitaker not out	29	0	4	67	78
*A Nixon not out	13	0	2	30	43
Extras (lb4 nb2)	6				
Total (for 4, 41.1 overs)	123				

Fall: 1-36, 2-63, 3-63, 4-86.

To bat: C C Lewis, J M Dalziel, J Ormond, M S Kasprzowicz, M T Brimston.

Bowling: M C Ilett 14.1-7-34-2, A P Cowan 13-3-33-1, R C Irani 6-2-22-1, P M Such 6-0-29-0.

Umpires: R Julian and P Palmer.

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated)

PPF Healthcare County Championship (day 2 of 4)

4) Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

4) Riverside: Durham v Worcestershire, Chelmsford: Essex v Leicestershire, Old Trafford: Lancashire v Sussex, Lord's: Middlesex v Kent, The Foster's Oval: Surrey v Gloucestershire.

OTHER MATCHES (day 1 of 3): Fenner's: Cambridge University v Somerset (11.30).

Lancashire v Sussex

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 2 of 4): Sussex have scored 285 for 5 wickets against Lancashire.

Sussex won toss

SUSSEX - First Innings

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
R R Montgomery c Chilton b Chapple	62	0	8	164	194
M T E Pearce c Hegg b Martin	77	0	8	204	264
*C J Adams c Hegg b Smithurst	26	1	3	26	30
M I De Venuto lbw b Schofield	31	1	3	45	53
P A Cotterly b Watkinson	46	0	4	84	89
R K Rao not out	0	0	0	56	81
P J Kirtley not out	5	0	1	10	5
Extras (lb2 nb2 w2 nb26)	32				
Total (for 5, 96 overs)	285				

Fall: 1-136, 2-174, 3-209, 4-233, 5-279.

To bat: R S C Martin-Jenkins, IS Humphries, M A Robinson, U B A Rashid.

Bowling: P J Martin 22-5-48-1, G Chapple 21-4-61-1, M P Smithurst 19-1-58-1, M Watkinson 17-5-42-1, C P Schofield 17-1-72-1.

Umpires: N A Maller and G Sharp.

Middlesex v Kent

LORD'S (Day 2 of 4): Kent trail Middlesex by 233 runs with 9 first-innings wickets in hand.

Kent won toss

MIDDLESEX - First Innings Overnight 16-1

First Innings Contd

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
J L Langer c Marsh b Thompson	55	0	6	138	519
*M R Ramprakash c Key b Fleming	12	0	1	45	75
R A Kettleborough c Ward b Thompson	0	0	0	4	3
C A Smith b Fleming	16	0	3	56	63
F N Wroe c Fleming b Thompson	14	0	1	51	74
D C Nash not out	62	0	6	131	205
J P Hewitt b Patel	25	0	3	65	71
R L Johnson lbw b Patel	28	0	5	53	70
S J Cook c Walker b Patel	0	0	0	1	0
P C R Tufnell c Walker b Thompson	5	0	0	15	15
Extras (lb7 lb4 nb20)	31				
Total (95.5 overs)	254				

Fall: 1-8, 2-48, 3-51, 4-100, 5-118, 6-137, 7-194, 8-246, 9-246.

Bowling: D W Headley 26-4-79-1, J B Thompson 23-5-61-4, M V Fleming 21-9-42-2, A Symonds 15-3-40-0, M M Patel 10-3-21-3.

Kent - First Innings

First Innings Contd

	Runs	GS	As	Bls	Mln
E T Smith lbw b Cook	3	0	0	22	27
R W T Key not out	16	0	1	58	62
T R Ward not out	1	0	0	22	34
Extras (lb1)	1				
Total (for 1, 17 overs)	21				

Fall: 1-10.</





# Golden Canary memories



KEN JONES

A LETTER came the other day that brought back a time before the close proximity of sport to the financial section in national newspapers became appropriate.

It was from Norwich City Football Club requesting my presence on Saturday at a dinner in honour of men whose inspired play in the spring of 1959 almost took a middle-of-the-road Third Division club to the FA Cup final.

By the time Norwich came up against Luton Town in a semi-final at White Hart Lane after remarkable victories over Manchester United, Cardiff City, Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield United, they were established as the most accomplished giant-killers in FA Cup history.

Yet such was the state of affairs at Carrow Road three months earlier that the club's manager, Archie Macaulay, a distinguished former Scottish international, was barricaded in his office while disgruntled supporters protested in the street outside.

Norwich's League form was poor, they had struggled to overcome an amateur club, Ilford, in the first round and only just got past Swindon in a home replay.

No wonder that the task - in my first year as a sports reporter - of covering Norwich's home third-round tie against Manchester United for the *Daily Mirror* did not have much appeal personally. "Get on with it," I was told bluntly. "It will be good experience."

United were still recovering from the awful tragedy that had overtaken them at Munich just short of 12 months earlier, but there was nothing to suggest



The Norwich City goalkeeper Ken Nethercott keeps his goal intact during the Canaries' fifth-round draw at Tottenham in 1959 *Daily Mirror*

that I was in for more than a routine assignment.

Instead, the reverberating shock of Norwich's 3-0 victory foretold the FA Cup's most romantic story. Suddenly, they were a team transformed by sensation. Their captain, the solid, intelligent full-back Ron Ashman, who later managed the club and developed Kevin Keegan at Scunthorpe, would say: "It's still difficult to work out what happened to us. One minute we were finding things hard in the League and lucky to still be in the cup. Then overnight we had this conviction that we could beat anyone."

"You see, it wasn't just that we had taken United to the cleaners and that one or two of them went missing on a frozen pitch. We had good players in our team, very good players who wouldn't have been out of their depth in the First Division. "We weren't a kick-and-rush team and it just needed something to set it all off. Beating Manchester United did that for us. It's a big advantage to be drawn at home in the FA Cup, but as time went on we honestly believed we could win anywhere and against anyone."

After overcoming Cardiff City from the Second Division in the next round, Norwich were drawn away at Tottenham, who would soon be transformed themselves, going on from a

depressing season to win the League and Cup double two years later.

More than 20,000 fans, almost double the number who had watched Norwich's ragged start to the season, travelled to cheer their team in London. Norwich was gripped by Cup fever. Work schedules had gone haywire and there was not a citizen who could not repeat the mournful yet oddly inspiring lyric of the terrace anthem: "On the Ball, City." The city lived for the next match. Exiles flocked back to Carrow Road to take part in the mass adulation of the Canaries.

Saved by Cliff Jones' late equaliser, Tottenham did not carry much optimism into the

replay and were defeated. Their captain, Danny Blanchflower, declared: "I have played all over the world, in some of the world's great stadiums, but I have never experienced an atmosphere like that."

A draw against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane in the sixth round, when Norwich hung on with their goalkeeper Ken Nethercott injured, set up another emotional night in Norfolk. Immediately the whistle blew to announce Norwich's advance to the semi-finals, I got a message from the *Mirror*: "Front page piece - now," the voice said.

In receipt of a similar request, the famed *Daily Express* sports

columnist Desmond Hackett ad-libbed wondrous tales of supporters getting a dray horse drunk and cars being swapped for match tickets - none of them true, but put around often enough in the wee small hours to be credible when printed.

The run ended when Norwich went out 1-0 to Luton in a semi-final replay at White Hart Lane. So strong is the bond in those players that Errol Crossan is coming from Vancouver; Matt Crowe from South Africa and Roy McCrohan from Florida. It cannot be imagined that, in 40 years' time, any of today's teams will feel a similar attachment.

## Fulham's denial on Keegan

BY KIERAN DALEY

FULHAM HAVE denied suggestions that their owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, is set to offer Kevin Keegan a new three-year contract after his success in guiding the club into the First Division.

Keegan's current deal as chief operating officer runs out in the summer of 2000 when he is tipped to take on the full-time role of England coach. And Al Fayed is said to be reluctant to let down England's supporters by offering Keegan new terms at Craven Cottage.

"It [the offer] is just hearsay. Just speculation," a Fulham spokesman said yesterday. "Kevin said last night that he had six games left for Fulham this season and he reiterated his commitment to see out his contract with Fulham. That is the situation."

After earning promotion to the First Division on Tuesday night with a 3-0 victory over Gillingham, the Londoners are confident they will reach the Premiership ahead of schedule. A place in the top division was the key element of Keegan's five-year plan for the club.

"The Premiership is achievable for anyone in the First Division," the spokesman said.

Keegan spelled out the reasons why he will be staying at Fulham next season, saying he would miss the day-to-day involvement with players if he took on the England job full-time.

"I don't think you can ever get that same sort of feeling for England - England comes and goes; you've got 12 games a year. I think a lot of managers have said in the past that what they really miss is that day-to-day involvement and I suppose I would as well," he said.

The most likely scenario remains that the Football Association will allow Keegan to continue his dual role with club

and country past June and into the Euro 2000 finals.

Meanwhile, Kevin Phillips has set his sights on matching the Premiership's best marksman after shooting Sunderland back into the top flight. The 25-year-old striker's four-goal salvo in the 5-2 win at Bury on Tuesday night ensured his side's return to the top flight after an absence of two seasons. It also took him past the 20-goal mark for the season despite an injury lay-off of three and a half months.

Phillips, picked up by Peter Reid for a bargain-basement £300,000 from Watford in July 1997, is now relishing the chance to prove himself against the best defences in the country. He is refusing to be overawed by the prospect of lining up against the likes of Jaap Stam, Tony Adams and Frank Leboeuf and has set a similar goal target next season.

"I set my target at 20, and the way the team has been playing at the Stadium of Light we create so many chances," he said. Sunderland's victory at Gigg Lane may have clinched promotion, but there are still four more First Division games.

Sunderland should clinch the championship at Barnsley on Friday night when simply avoiding defeat would see their captain, Kevin Ball, presented with the trophy following the last home game of the season against Birmingham on Sunday 9 May. Phillips has now revised his own personal aims for what is left of the season.

"I enjoy playing the games, and we want to finish the season on a high," he said. "We're up now but we still need a point to clinch the championship and we want to finish winning every game. We want to get 100 points and score as many goals as we can."

## Champagne Breaks

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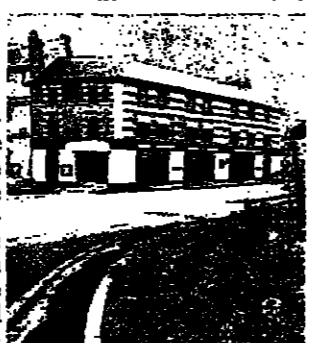
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### PARTICIPATING HOTELS

#### Epernay, Le Thibault IV ★★

Situated 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area, serving both gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!



#### Epernay, Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche ★★

The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming pool, sauna and fitness room and the bedrooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine cellars holding vintages dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.



#### Troyes, Forêt d'Orient ★★

Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18-hole golf course, 15km from medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous-sized rooms offer satellite TV/telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate wc. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good-value menus. Family rooms available.



#### Reims, L'Assiette Champenoise ★★

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All bedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar. Buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.



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Destination and hotel name	10/04-30/04	01/05-27/05	28/05-31/08	01/09-31/10
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Epernay Le Thibault IV	49 27	59 28	69 29	59 28
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	69 28	79 29	89 31	79 29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	79 37	89 38	99 40	89 38
Reims Assiette Champenoise	89 38	99 42	109 44	99 42

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Epernay Le Thibault IV	59 27	69 28	79 29	69 28
Troyes Forêt d'Orient	79 28	89 29	99 31	89 29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	89 37	99 38	109 40	99 38
Reims Assiette Champenoise	99 38	109 42	119 44	109 42

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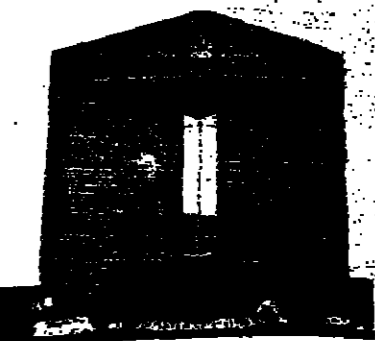
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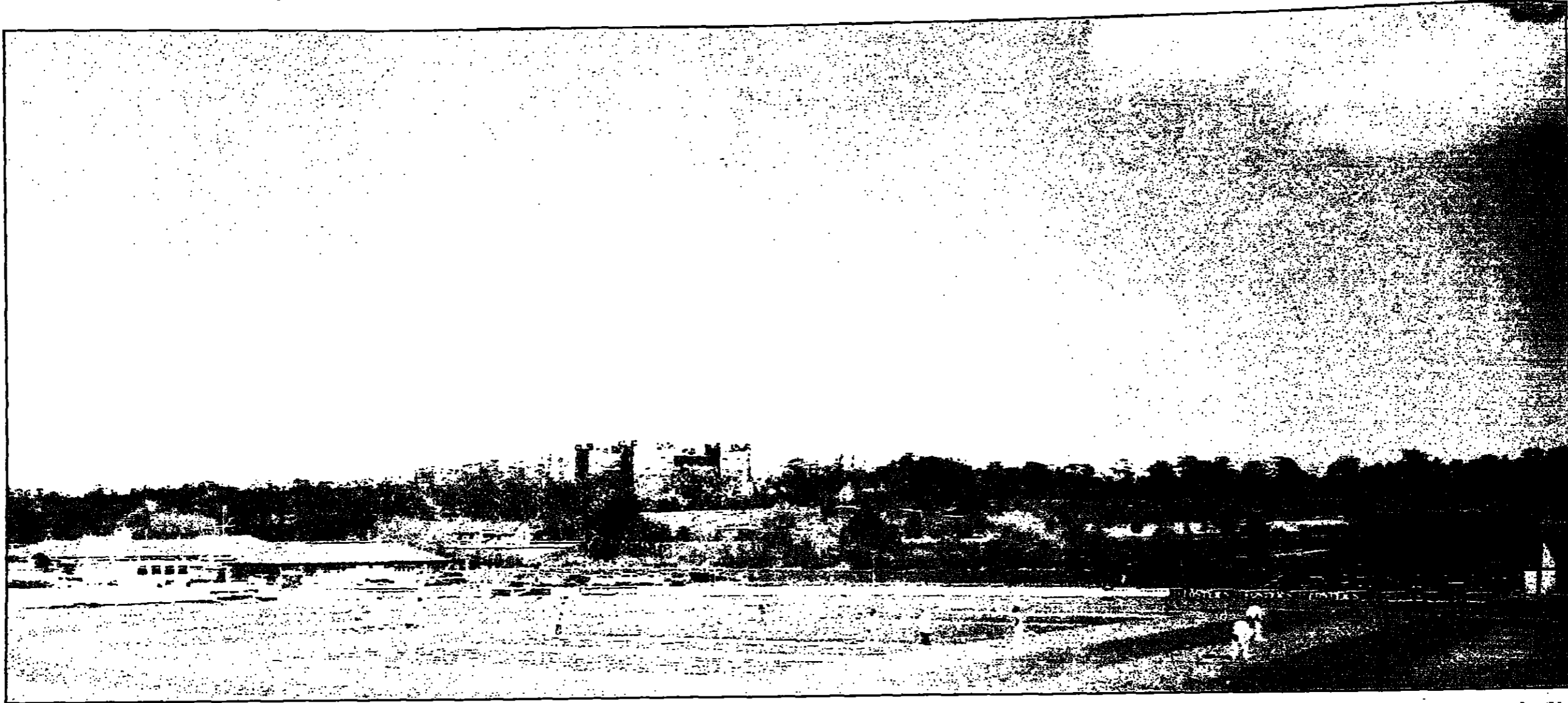


## SPORT



BRADLEY BACK IN THE SADDLE P22 • HILLSBOROUGH'S LEGACY P20

## 11.00: Play resumes at Durham. 17.13: Snow stops play



Seasons come, seasons go: After the snow that prevented play on the first day of Durham's opening County Championship match against Worcestershire on Tuesday, the Christmas scene gave way to a vision of English sum-

mer time at the Riverside yesterday. The sun shining out of the blue sky picks out Lumley Castle behind Durham headquarters at Chester-le-Street as the players at last enjoy the warm glow of a new cricket season.

Durham made a promising start to the match, bowling out Worcestershire for 152. David Leatherdale offered the only serious resistance with 85 as Simon Brown celebrated his return after a year out with a knee injury by taking 6 for 25.

But by then the fluffy white clouds had been replaced by something more threatening and just one over into their reply Durham's openers were forced to retreat - by snow. They did return, however, and Durham ended the day on 32 for 1. PA

## Owen out for rest of the season

MICHAEL OWEN is out of football for three months with a hamstring and tendon injury. Yesterday the Liverpool and England striker discovered the results of the scan on his right leg which reveals far worse damage than was first feared. Owen will miss England's next three matches - the friendly against Hungary in Budapest on 28 April and the European Championship qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria on 5 and 9 June. Owen limped out of Monday's Premiership match at Leeds with a recurrence of the

FOOTBALL  
BY PAUL WALKER

hamstring injury that has affected him twice before this season. Liverpool only discovered the full extent of his injury when they received hospital reports yesterday. Gérard Houllier, the Anfield club's manager, said: "The scan has revealed damage to the hamstring and the tendon. It will take six weeks to recover from. Then it will take another six weeks after that to build up the strength in the leg again."

Houllier had already decided that Owen would have been given a long rest to recover from the stresses of almost three seasons of non-stop football before he knew the full extent of the injury. Now the teenage striker will miss Liverpool's final seven games of the season as well as the three England internationals. It is a big blow for England's caretaker coach, Kevin Keegan, who could not pick Owen for the Euro 2000 win over Poland last month following a similar injury sustained at Derby in March.

Owen also missed several games last November with another similar injury, which cost him an England appearance against the Czech Republic. Houllier was already concerned about Owen's general fitness before the scan reports. The 19-year-old, who became a national celebrity following his goal against Argentina at France 98, has played an incredible 85 of Liverpool's 91 games since he made his debut against Wimbledon in May 1997. He has also played 13 full internationals and one England Under-21 fixture, plus a

youth international in the past 18 months. In the previous two close seasons he has figured in the Youth World Championship in Malaysia and, last summer, in the World Cup finals in France. Owen has scored 23 goals in 40 games this season, and in his Liverpool career he has collected 47 goals. The fear at Liverpool must be that, after three hamstring injuries in six months, Owen could have a long-term problem if he is not given a lengthy break to recover. At Old Trafford, Manchester United have often

had to cope without Ryan Giggs, who has had constant hamstring problems. The Football Association's interim executive director, David Davies, said: "Obviously everyone connected with England is very disappointed to hear this news about Michael, and we all wish him a speedy recovery. We will look forward to him being back in contention for the crucial Euro 2000 qualifying matches in September against Luxembourg and Poland." Last night Owen said: "Naturally I am disappointed to be injured but I have complete con-

fidence in the medical team at Anfield and I know that they will have me back playing as soon as possible." Meanwhile, Robbie Fowler is still planning to take on the FA with an appeal against his two-game ban for insulting Graeme Le Saux. Fowler is still considering his next move after meetings with the Anfield club, who would prefer that he takes his punishment both for that offence and his "coke-sniffing" goal celebrations against Everton. However, Fowler is unhappy that he was given a bigger

penalty than Le Saux. The Chelsea left-back was given a one-match suspension and a fine. Fowler would like the FA to reconsider its punishment, but Liverpool fear that could mean a delay to the period when he serves his ban and possibly an increase in the sentence. At the moment Fowler is due to be ruled out for six matches in total, with one of those at the start of next season. But the England forward could still miss a bigger chunk of next season, should the FA reconsider the case and possibly increase the suspension.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD  
No.3897 Thursday 15 April by Phi

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

1. FISH supposedly extinct? (10)  
2. See us in boat without stern getting raw fish (5)  
3. Spanish boarding-house (5)  
4. Coin attracting cost when incorporating head of noble royal (5,6)  
5. Places to stop for new arrivals, we hear (6)  
6. Journalist in crowd with no yen for huge numbers (8)  
7. River in Midlands city shows an oarsman (6)  
8. University computer store containing nothing from part of library (7,4)  
9. Is "Bill" encompassing a boy's name? (5)  
10. Organise a delivery service, showing some prevarication (9)  
11. It's a match that's scrappy, struggling for inspiration? (9)  
12. Stolen article from the

1. Free, aristocratic young men pay attention (10)  
2. See us in boat without stern getting raw fish (5)  
3. Spanish boarding-house (5)  
4. Coin attracting cost when incorporating head of noble royal (5,6)  
5. Places to stop for new arrivals, we hear (6)  
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Korsten snub angers Leeds

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

GEORGE GRAHAM, never one to be the least bit sentimental about his former employers, is about to send Leeds United into a fury by capitalising on Willem Korsten's rejection of a permanent move to Elland Road. The Tottenham manager is primed to secure the Dutch midfielder's services for around £1.5m. This will no doubt infuriate Graham's successor at Leeds, David O'Leary, who was aiming to agree a permanent deal for Korsten from his club Vitesse Arnhem, going so far as to accept all of the Dutchman's wage demands after he impressed while on loan. However, Korsten and his advisors have now said they want to speak to other teams, and Graham may step in and conclude a move this week. Leeds are understandably taken aback by the developments. Korsten has been with them since January and made

his squad, with the attraction of playing in Europe next season. The Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, has dropped a strong hint that Colin Calderwood, a bargain signing secured from Graham's clear-out at White Hart Lane, could earn an extension to his contract. Gregory took over the remaining 15 months of 34-year-old's contract when signing him from

A handful of promising appearances. The Leeds chairman, Peter Ridsdale, has been left "completely mystified" by the player's apparent change of heart. "It is very disappointing because it is certainly the first example I have ever had of a player who has asked for an amount of money on a contract and then, when you offer it to him, decides not to take it," Ridsdale said. "All I have heard is that he has taken into account where he thinks his other opportunities might be this summer, which may well include an opportunity in Holland and, possibly, opportunities in England. But nobody has given me an explanation which I believe is satisfactory. I am completely mystified." However, Graham, always on the look-out for a bargain, can offer him the chance of joining

Spurs just before the transfer deadline for £225,000. He was seen initially as a short-term replacement while Ugo Ehiogu recovered from a fractured eye socket that is likely to end his participation this season. However, the former Scotland international has created such a favourable impression on Gregory in his three games - against West Ham, Leicester and Southampton - that he could be offered a longer stay at Villa. Gregory said: "Colin might be 34 but he has proved he can keep going for another two or three years. I brought him in to consolidate the defence, and he has done exactly that. "He was in the World Cup with Scotland only last summer. He has played well, and since he came into the side we have kept two clean sheets in three games. We have missed Ugo, and there has been a massive responsibility on Gareth South-

gate's shoulders. We wanted Colin to take some of that responsibility away from him. "He's played well, and let's just say that Colin is going to make himself a good living over the next couple of years." The Football Association of Wales remains optimistic that the final Euro 2000 qualifier against Switzerland will be staged at Cardiff's Ninian Park in October as originally scheduled. The plan to play in Cardiff had been put in jeopardy by the Welsh rugby union team's fixture against Japan in the World Cup at the city's Millennium Stadium on 9 October. Italy are in Belarus in their final match of Group One that same weekend and unless Italy have already qualified and Belarus are no longer in contention it is likely that UEFA, football's European governing body, will decide on the dates and kick-off times of the two games.

Korsten: Interests Spurs

Sunday kick-offs infuriate Scots

BY SIMON STONE

THE SCOTTISH Premier League are preparing themselves for a barrage of criticism after the entire programme for the last day of the season was switched to Sunday, 23 May. All five matches will kick-off at 6.05pm, with Sky TV yet to decide which one they will screen live. With the title and relegation situations building up to a dramatic conclusion, the SPL had no alternative other than to order the clubs to change en masse, handing Celtic a Sunday

evening trip to Tannadice to play Dundee United and relegation-threatened Hearts face a trek north to face Aberdeen. It also means that Rangers, who entertain Kilmarnock at Ibrox on the final evening, will now play seven of their last eight games of the season on Sunday nights. "As has happened in England in recent years, the fixtures on the last day of the season will be played on a Sunday," said an SPL spokesman. "This was agreed by all the SPL clubs during negotiations of the Sky contract. It is of course crucial that all the games are played simultaneously on the last day of the season in order to ensure that no club is given an unfair advantage by playing later." With the English FA Cup final at Wembley on the Saturday, a TV showing of the final game of the season on that day was not possible, hence the Sunday starts.

No explanation has been put forward by either the SPL or Sky for the reason for the 6.05pm kick-off, although Nationwide League play-off matches have been scheduled for that weekend. The situation has angered supporters in Scotland. "Sunday evening games are something that has been the subject of discussion between ourselves and Rangers for some time," said John McMillan, secretary of the Rangers' Supporters' Association. "In fairness, I think the clubs now realise it was a mistake and they are looking at ways and means of trying to change the kick-off times. But that is not going to be easy because of Sky TV's various contracts. "We have supporters who travel long distances to watch their side. These fans are being denied the chance to watch Rangers, as are the ones who are not members of supporters' associations because, at the time of night, public transport is almost non-existent."

# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

## Hillsborough, 3.06pm, 15 April 1989



Stephanie Jones travelled to Sheffield the night before the game to stay with her brother, Richard, and his girlfriend, Tracey, who were at Sheffield University. The plan was that on the Sunday, Doreen and Les Jones would pick up their son, daughter and Tracey, and drive to Snake Pass for a picnic. On the Saturday afternoon, Doreen had gone to visit her father. "I was in the kitchen but my father shouted to me to tell me there was trouble at Hillsborough."

Doreen went through to watch the television. "I saw people lying on the pitch and people coming over the fence... and I heard the man say it was Leppings Lane that the trouble was in... and I couldn't understand why these people were falling on to the pitch. I started to panic. I was shouting, 'My three are in there. I've got to go home,' and I started to cry. I hadn't seen anybody who'd died, but his voice was very serious and I ran all the way home."

Doreen rang Les at work where he was also watching the television coverage. He felt that the three would be safe because they would not have been near the front of the pen. Doreen was "getting more and more upset watching the scenes" while Les "was already quite aware that there were deaths in the crowd". Some time before 5pm, Stephanie rang from Sheffield. She was in tears because she had lost both Richard and Tracey. With the help of another fan she had made her way back to the car. A local woman let her use her phone.

"She said she'd hurt her ribs, hurt her arm. I told her to go back to the ground and tell the police what

she had told me." Doreen thought that Richard must be hurt and was probably at the hospital. She phoned Les and he returned home. She contacted Tracey's mother in Wiltshire and "promised that with every step of the way [they] would keep in touch."

"Les came home and got changed... Stephanie finally rang and said she was in a boys' club in Sheffield, right by the police station. She told her dad where it was and we told her we were leaving right away from Sheffield." As they set off, Les was sure that Richard was seriously hurt. "There was no way he would have let Stephanie go missing and the fact that he was missing was conclusive proof that there was something wrong..." "At first," said Doreen, "we were talking about whether they were all right... then conversation petered out..."

At the boys' club, they met Stephanie who was with Richard and Tracey's friends and a social worker. Doreen and Les were also assigned a social worker. There was no information, no casualty list, but a "terrible atmosphere... slowly but surely the people in there were being taken over by dog collars... more priests and vicars than people..."

Then towards 1am a senior police officer stood on a chair announcing names. "We didn't know whether they were people who'd been injured or [whether] he was looking for people..." So Les went and asked. When he received no real answer, he went to the police station and was "chased back" to the boys' club. They were told to wait.

It was about 2.15am when another police officer announced that they "were being taken to the ground to look at some photographs". Doreen

shouted out: "Why? What are we going to look at photographs for? Why aren't we being taken to a hospital?" She continued, "He knew what the photographs were and I suppose I did..."

They were taken outside - "two priests, two social workers, Stephanie, Les and I" - and put upstairs on a double-decker bus. Les could not stop shaking, "you didn't know if it was the cold or the fear or what..." At the ground they were left on the bus, "the Salvation Army... throwing blankets around [their] shoulders to keep [them] warm".

### THE BEREAVED

THE JONES FAMILY

Queuing outside the gymnasium, the police reaction was "aggressive... pushing and shoving [people]". A Salvation Army officer approached and saw that Les "was fuming" and asked, "What's the problem?" Les replied that they had not seen a casualty list. He told them not to worry, he would fetch one. "He went away but he never came back..."

Once inside, they realised the full horror of the gymnasium. Surrounded by gym equipment, and what looked like "curtains hanging", they watched "a guy standing there punching a brick wall... people screaming and God knows what..."

Les was asked to go and view the photographs. Doreen said, "The pair of us went hand-in-hand to stand in yet another queue... there were, like partitions and this noise all around you of people sobbing and screaming... I was just shaking from my head to my feet. I had this blanket on but I was still

shaking and shaking. And this policeman - he had a helmet on - said: 'Can't you just keep still?'"

Stephanie had stayed in the room with the social worker. Doreen and Les then saw the photographs. Doreen said, "They were only small Polaroid pictures and we seemed to go along loads of them. And then Les pointed out Richard... And then he said he couldn't find Trace. I said this was 'Trace... Les didn't recognise her at first'."

They were taken inside the door, "and they brought us two trolleys together, pulled one out - unzipped it, just showed you the head and you just said 'Yes' and they pulled the next one forward..." Doreen bent down "to cuddle Richard" but she never made it. "I don't know who it was... they hawked me up and told Les that they [the bodies] were the property of the coroner and we couldn't touch him. The next thing I know I'm sitting on a chair, so whether I blocked it out. I don't know. But I know I didn't touch him. I wasn't allowed to touch him."

Someone went to collect Stephanie and an argument broke out. The police were demanding statements and Les said: "I don't want to give you a statement now." They replied: "I'm afraid you're going to have to." Social workers were arguing that the statements could wait and the police responded: "No. We want them now."

"I was absolutely fuming with rage but thought OK, we've got to do it. I suppose they need identification, so let's get it over with."

Do you know whether he had a drink on the way up here? What time did he leave home? Do you know whether he went for a drink the night before? Did

he usually have a drink before the match? Sitting opposite and alongside police officers, Les "was like a zombie". The questions felt like accusations.

"The whole time this guy in civies was tut-tutting. I just tried to blot him out but he was getting on my nerves. Eventually the guy asking the questions said, 'Okay, that's great,' and walked away and I thought that was it... then another bobby came and we had to go through it all again. All the time these horrendous scenes were going on."

When they finished answering questions about Tracey, they went to get up from the table and the plainclothes officer said: "I want a statement now, an overall statement." Les sat down. "I was so mad... I just stared ahead and he was asking me questions, like an overall statement. When it was over, he sort of threw the statement at me and said: 'Here you are, get that signed.' I said: 'No. I'm going to read it first.' I started reading it and he had everything wrong. It was unbelievable, he had his [Richard's] age wrong, everything wrong."

Later that day they went to the Medico-Legal Centre. Doreen wanted to sit with Richard, as she had wanted to hold him at the gymnasium. "That at one time in your life when you needed to be with your son... You've brought him into the world, for Christ's sake, you needed to see him out." Regardless of her actions, however hard she and Les had tried, "there was no way they were going to let me be with him". They were powerless.

This is an edited extract from 'Hillsborough: The Truth', by Phil Scruton (Mainstream £9.99)

### THE LIVERPOOL CAPTAIN

RONNIE WHELAN

THE GAME meant nothing to us afterwards. The next few weeks were dominated by the funerals. You realised that football was just not important.

It was a very black day for everyone involved in football. I remember the referee telling me to get the players off the pitch quickly. We didn't realise what was going on even when we were out on the pitch.

There appeared to be some kind of trouble behind the goal.

We were sat in the dressing-room and I remember one guy coming in and screaming: "You can't play on. You can't play on." It was only afterwards, when we watched it on television, that we fully realised what exactly had happened behind the goal. We just felt so helpless sitting there. There was nothing we could do. I wouldn't say we wanted to quit the game but we really weren't interested in playing after the semi-final. I was captain on the day, but there wasn't much I could do. Nobody spoke.



Maybe [the FA Cup final against Everton] shouldn't have been played, but there were so many other things going on that any decision was going to be difficult. And a lot of people wanted us to continue in the hope that we would win for the supporters.

In the days afterwards, the staff came round and told us that we now had to win the cup for those who had died. Ronnie Whelan is now coaching the Greek club side Panionios

I THINK we'd played for about 10 minutes or so and we were just concentrating on the game. It started off at a frantic pace. A couple of people spilled on to the pitch but we knew it wasn't crowd trouble. We thought we'd let the police sort it out.

We went off and sat in the dressing-room for an hour and a half with no knowledge of what was going on. The referee popped his head in every 20 minutes or so to say we'd hang on a bit - he wasn't yet aware of the tragedy.



### THE FOREST PLAYER

NIGEL CLOUGH

All our thoughts were with the Liverpool fans who had lost family and friends. It hit home that it could have been at the Forest end and it could have been our fans.

It was a difficult situation for us at Forest, because I think the whole country wanted Liverpool to win the re-match, but in the circumstances the game was almost secondary.

I remember being so pleased that the game was over. FA Cup semi-final day is such a special day, and it didn't feel like that. Normally, the two sets of supporters involved are extremely excited about it because they may be going to Wembley, but there wasn't that sort of feeling. Nigel Clough is now player-manager of Burton Albion

### THE POLICEMAN

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN MOLE

I WAS in the car in Barnsley when the call came over the police radio asking for assistance at Hillsborough. At that point we thought it was a pitch invasion.



I got to the ground at around 4.30pm. The first sight that confronted me was of 11 bodies lying behind the barriers. That was the first time I knew that there had been deaths. All the way over in the car, I had been expecting a pitch invasion with complications. I didn't know there were deaths.

Anyway, I saw the bodies and the inspector came up to me and said: "It's worse than that, Boss - there is a whole gymnasium of bodies."

You see terrible things, but you have to put your professional head on. There were the families there who you are trying to help. You have to try to get on with it.

It was a long night. I remember the sports minister Colin Moynihan coming up. He had never seen a dead body before and yet he came into the gym and there were 90 there.

Looking back now, 10 years on, I think that people have to leave it alone. I hope the service today will help. I hope it will help the healing process.

Brian Mole retired from the force six years ago and is now head of security at Sheffield University

### THE JOURNALIST

PATRICK BARCLAY

WHAT HAS been inadequately addressed by the film, the documentaries, the enquiries, was that five minutes before the disaster, the crowd control was about combating hooliganism.



Suddenly it was about crowd protection. Although there was appalling incompetence by the police, in a sense those who were bereaved, were bereaved by hooligans. Not through hooligan behaviour on the day, but by the actions of hooligans in the past which had led to oppressive pens, herding like animals, and siege mentalities at grounds.

Since then, we've rectified the problems - the hooligans, the penning, terraces. I don't regret the end of a terrible era, I hope. Patrick Barclay is now at 'The Sunday Telegraph'

changes. I don't care what atmosphere we've lost. Atmosphere is not worth one injury, let alone 100 lives. Having been there I don't want to be reminded of it. It was the end of a terrible era, I hope.

### THE PHOTOGRAPHER

KEITH DOBNEY

I WAS one of The Independent's staff photographers and the first I knew was when I got a call from the picture editor at about 3.15pm. I drove up the M1 and got there about 5.45pm.

The photographers there earlier had taken those pictures used over the next few days of people crushed up against the fences. I can't see how you can illustrate an event like that where people were choked,

squashed to death, using any other image. Ten years on, no one has been held accountable for what happened. I find that dreadful. Keith Dobney still works as a freelance photographer

### THE FOREST SUPPORTER

MEL HART

IT'S A strange feeling that the Forest supporters at the game were left with. Although the tragedy concerned Liverpool fans, there were also a lot of people from Nottingham who were affected. It left a mental scar for people who were there. I believe there was counselling for some of the Forest fans who were there.

I can still remember the day very clearly. It was a day I'll never forget. I was sitting level with the edge of the 18-yard box at the Leppings Lane end. When it first happened, you

didn't really realise the enormity of it, but gradually the scale of what had happened began to sink in - that so much carnage could have happened at a football game.

Now, I think that football is a safer place with better grounds and supporters are a lot more responsible. I think most Forest supporters would like to forget about it. But that's not easily done.

Mel Hart now chairs the Nottingham Forest Supporters Club

### THE LIVERPOOL SUPPORTER

ALAN EDGE

WE ARRIVED at the match around 1.50pm and went straight into the central pens. By 2.10pm, the crush was already as bad as the Kop [the terrace at Liverpool's ground] ever was, aggravating my friend's injured back. We struggled out of the tunnel and found the empty pens, unaware of what we were leaving behind.

It would be fitting if the 10th anniversary could see an end to the bitterness. I think, though, the river of injustice is too wide, authorities stonewalling too callous.

Decent people like the Hammonds - who lost their beloved Philip - don't sacrifice so much pursuing groundless causes.

Their lives have been on hold since then. They've struggled to come to terms with their loss and the reasons for it. The justice they want is simple: a fair trial of those responsible for the disaster and for the lies and cover-ups afterwards. I believe that is fair.

For me, I pray that thoughts of that crowded pen will stop wrenching my guts.

I pray that in years to come, my grandson will ask me why there was no FA Cup final in 1989. I pray that I'll be able to tell him that the participants agreed 10 years later to have that final taken out of the record books. Their doing so, I shall add, was an honourable thing to have done, in recognition of the 96 victims of the disaster, many of them children. Would the fruition of such a prayer be too much to expect?

## WINNER 5 BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS

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RICHARD WILLIAMS - THE GUARDIAN

"THE SEXIEST BIT OF POWER-PLAY I'VE SEEN AT THE CINEMA THIS YEAR"

TOM SHONE - THE SUNDAY TIMES

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AT CINEMAS NOW

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## Age of consent

Sir: Baroness Young justifies her support for a discriminatory age of consent for homosexuals with the argument that young men need protection against abuse ("Lords reject lower age of gay consent", 14 April). Why, then, does she refuse to support the most obvious and effective safeguard against sexual exploitation - earlier, better-quality sex education in schools?

Evidence from other countries suggests that the best protection against abusive relationships is educating and empowering young people to stand up for their sexual rights, which include both the right to say "yes" to sex and the right to say "no". Teenagers who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to control their own bodies are much more likely to resist unwanted sexual advances and to report abuse if it occurs.

Current sex education is too vague and euphemistic, focusing on the biological facts of reproduction and rarely discussing sex, let alone sexual rights or sex abuse. Few pupils receive assertiveness training in how to deal with sex pests or in what to do if they are molested. They need to be taught the ability and assuredness to reject and report unwanted sexual overtures.

Baroness Young and her supporters ignore the fact that adults who sexually exploit teenagers often get away with it because the victims feel guilty about sex and are therefore reluctant to complain. This reluctance is reinforced by strait-laced cultural attitudes, which still tend to regard sex as something sordid that should be kept hidden and private. These attitudes are a godsend to abusers, who rely on guilt and secrecy to carry out their molestation undetected.

If Lady Young is serious about the protection of youth, she should call on the Government to amend the age of consent Bill to require all schools to provide more detailed and comprehensive sex education.

PETER TATCHELL  
OutRage!  
London SW14

Sir: The conclusion of Baroness Young's disgraceful campaign to deny basic human rights to young gay men will have come as no surprise to any of us concerned in this matter or who are familiar with the people who support her.

I can remember the loneliness and confusion I suffered as a boy growing up in Berkshire in the early Sixties and it makes me furious that people like Lady Young wish to perpetuate this unhappiness even today.

Thank God - and I mean that - we have a government now which is prepared to stand up to ignorance and prejudice and that this long-overdue measure of simple justice will eventually become law.

The Rev NEIL DAWSON  
London SW1

Sir: Yet again we have to listen to the outpourings of moral indignation from those opposed to lowering the age of consent for homosexuals to that of heterosexuals.

What morality displays such displeasure at other people's happiness, such prejudice against a minority which would not be tolerated if expressed against anyone with a different skin-colour, such ignorance of the splendour and many-coloured aspects of human emotions and inclinations?

Their key word is "consent". If a boy and a girl of 16 are deemed capable of making the momentous decision to have sex and so realise the potential of creating a child, then at 16 any homosexual boy or girl should be deemed capable of giving or withholding consent to a sexual relationship.

MICHAEL WRIST  
Ely, Cambridgeshire

## My transport policy

Sir: Your front-page article (13 April) was downright wrong when it said that I am met by a chauffeur when I fly into the UK. I fly into one of London's airports at least once a

week on average and my usual means of travel on arrival is to drive myself in my own car or to take a tube or taxi. I object strongly to the implication that I am frequently collected by my official driver, because that is just not true.

My official car was in the UK on only seven occasions last year and twice this year. Even then this did not always involve collecting me from the airport. In addition to the official rules on the use of that car, I have a set of self-imposed conditions which have to be met before I am happy for it to come here. It does not come unless I have significant engagements as leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament or several days' intense activity which means that I need to work while travelling by road.

Like Romano Prodi, I am very happy to use the humblest of transport. My travel arrangements to meetings at Downing Street while leader of the Socialist Group have included taxis, tube and foot and even hitching a lift in a delivery van.

PAULINE GREEN MEP  
(Lab, London North)  
London N18

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Billingsgate No 4: Saturday is the busiest day at the fish market, when piscivores crowd in for crab and other delicacies

Kalpesh Lathigra

Sir: The conclusion of Baroness Young's disgraceful campaign to deny basic human rights to young gay men will have come as no surprise to any of us concerned in this matter or who are familiar with the people who support her.

I can remember the loneliness and confusion I suffered as a boy growing up in Berkshire in the early Sixties and it makes me furious that people like Lady Young wish to perpetuate this unhappiness even today.

Thank God - and I mean that - we have a government now which is prepared to stand up to ignorance and prejudice and that this long-overdue measure of simple justice will eventually become law.

The Rev NEIL DAWSON  
London SW1

Sir: Yet again we have to listen to the outpourings of moral indignation from those opposed to lowering the age of consent for homosexuals to that of heterosexuals.

What morality displays such displeasure at other people's happiness, such prejudice against a minority which would not be tolerated if expressed against anyone with a different skin-colour, such ignorance of the splendour and many-coloured aspects of human emotions and inclinations?

## Nato terror raids

Sir: The claim by Nato's Supreme Commander, General Wesley Clark, that Nato's bombing of a civilian passenger train near Leskovac on Monday was an "uncanny accident" (report, 14 April) must be regarded as a sick joke. Nato planes bombed the train twice, from close quarters. Unsatisfied with one "accident", the pilot apparently went back for another, when the train was clearly visible to him.

The truth is that Nato is murdering civilians in Yugoslavia virtually every day and is systematically destroying the country's civilian infrastructure. A typical example of Nato's bombing strategy was illustrated in Robert Fisk's report of the same day. "Collateral damage" lies dying in a shattered Belgrade hospital".

Nato bombed barracks in the Belgrade suburb of Banjaica in full knowledge that it was situated back to back with a hospital and that harm to patients was inevitable. Victims included civilians recovering from major surgery and people injured in earlier Nato attacks.

I agree with Robert Fisk that Nato's claim that they go to extraordinary lengths to avoid civilian casualties is "totally untrue". I fear that these attacks on the civilian population of Yugoslavia are actually designed to terrorise the population into submission. Furthermore, I believe that Nato's threat to bomb Yugoslav radio and television transmitters arose from concern about the effects on Western public opinion of broadcasts which show the extent of human "collateral damage" in Nato's humanitarian war.

Those who are suffering and will continue to suffer will not be the political leaders, here or in Yugoslavia. They are the innocent children and civilians of a country whose infrastructure is being systematically destroyed, in a landscape filled with depleted uranium and land mines in the

form of unexploded cluster bombs dropped by the Royal Air Force. ALICE MAHON MP (Lab, Halifax) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: Your front-page report "Nato hits Serb troops" (12 April) mentions "several hundred pro-Serb demonstrators" in London. From where I was standing, there did seem to be a number of pro-Serb demonstrators, but why don't you mention the several thousand who were there to protest against the Nato bombing? Surely you can't think that this is the same thing as supporting Milosevic or being "pro-Serb".

ANNA RIDERHALGH  
Southampton

Sir: Having been present in Trafalgar Square on Sunday 11 April, I would like to voice my disgust at the motley collection of greens, Marxists and anti-nuclear campaigners who allowed themselves to be associated with the Serbian nationalists protesting against Nato air strikes.

I respect their right to protest, but for them to align themselves with supporters of Milosevic's murderous regime is little short of a disgrace. Are we to understand that Tony Benn (for one) supports the policy of ethnic cleansing? If not, what other solution does he advocate to stop the scorched-earth policy of the Serbs?

I am glad that finally Milosevic has come up against a force stronger than his own. His capacity to pursue his vile policies of mass-murder and systematic rape of defenceless civilian populations must be removed to ensure no more repeats of the tragedies in Bosnia and Kosovo. PAUL O'HAGAN London NW1

## IN BRIEF

Parliament discussed the Data Protection Bill and we were given a solemn assurance that no data would be accessed by any government agency other than that which had collected them. Now I read that data transfer between government agencies is to be so widespread that it is hailed as an advantage to be able to notify any agency of a change of address and for it to be relayed to all others ("We're on line to call government direct", 7 April). I thought promises made by ministers in Parliament were binding.

PETER TALLENTIRE  
Liverpool

Sir: I agree with Julie Friend (letter, 13 April) about the way in which British Telecom is handling the change of some dialling codes. I recently logged on to the official website, www.numberchange.org, only to find that there was no e-mail address to register any complaint, question or suggestion. There is only one other site I know where e-mail comments are not accepted. That belongs to an organisation so arrogant that it thinks it has no need to listen to members of the public - the International Olympic Committee. Enough said.

The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL  
Liverpool

Sir: When personal computers were becoming widespread,

Sir: The "mean, narrow, Caucasian" style of nationalism which Donald Macintyre fears ("Now is the time for all good folk to come to the aid of the union", 9 April) is sadly alive and well in Scotland.

In Edinburgh there are areas I cannot visit because of the hostile reaction which would greet my English accent. Even around the universities of the city, the hostility encountered by English students from the narrow-minded segment of our Scottish peers serves to group all of us into one little-holding, car-owning, caviar-eating, dinner-party-throwing caste. SIMON FRANCIS Edinburgh

Sir: Last weekend was marked by a number of television programmes encouraging people to attempt to conceive so that they may be the first parents of a child born in the new millennium.

The National Health Service will be more stretched than ever before at the end of this year and the beginning of the next. Temporary extensions to casualty departments are being planned, along with additional resources for operating theatres and intensive care units.

Our equipment and supplies may be jeopardised by the failure of microprocessor-based equipment. It is therefore wholly irresponsible of television stations to encourage a "baby boom" at this time.

The only scandal which exceeds this is that of the health purchasing authorities, who expect the additional workload for the millennium to be absorbed in the budget for the financial year, with no reduction in elective activity - varicose veins, hip replacements and so on. The additional workload for a consultant in the health service for the period in question is the equivalent of an extra 28 days. Who will pay for this?

## Lax leadership

Sir: All the regular guys I know eat prunes for breakfast ("Are you a regular guy?", 13 April). If such wholesome food were available on William Hague's "kitchen table", perhaps his party could get moving again.

ROGER HURRELL  
Llandello, Carmarthen

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## NHS 2000 bug

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Dr JOHN URQUHART  
Consultant Anaesthetist with responsibility for Obstetric Anaesthesia  
West Suffolk Hospital  
Bury St Edmunds

## There's more to the Asian rich-list than meets the eye

I WAS slightly puzzled by the list which was recently issued of the top 100 richest Asians in Britain. I read it through from top to bottom, hoping against hope that I was on it, as one reads the New Year's honours list in the vague hope that one might have been knighted by accident. But it wasn't my absence that puzzled me. It was the fact that there was not a single rich Chinese person on the list.

The Chinese must be at least as good businessmen as the Indians, which is why the Chinese are regularly persecuted throughout Asia, and there must be several millionaires among them in Britain. Why were there none on the list of rich Asians? Are the Chinese so secretive that it was impossible to find out how much they were worth?

Then it struck me with the force

of a kick on the behind from a pantomime horse.

An Asian is not a person from Asia, and certainly not from that part of Asia where most Asians live, called China. He is a person from India, or Pakistan, or Bangladesh.

He is a person from the great subcontinent that used to be part of the British Empire. It is the shorthand term that has been evolved to describe people of Indian origin, no matter where they now come from, so that people who have never seen Asia in all their lives can happily be described as Asians (Ugandan Asians, for instance, or writers of Indian origin from Trinidad).

whereas a man who has just got off Asia such as Japan, Thailand or Burma, and has every right to be called Asian, would be told by

British prejudice that he is no such thing.

It is highly convenient for us to use the word "Asian" because it is a glib term for one of the two main streams of immigration we have known since the war. Most immigrants to Britain in my lifetime have been either Middle Eastern in origin or Caribbean. There has been incredible variation among them, and I don't suppose that Sikhs, Hindus, Tamils, Bengalis and all the rest like being lumped together as "Asians". I certainly don't think that Trinidadians and Jamaicans feel blood brothers back home in the West Indies, any more than we would care to be rounded up with New Zealanders and Canadians in a group of "Anglo-Saxons", but that's too bad. We as an island culture can't handle too many shades

of meaning, so we lump everyone together as black or Asian. Only this morning on the radio,

I heard Jack Straw insisting on the police recruiting more black and Asian officers. He would be somewhat surprised if the police responded by taking him literally and recruiting hundreds of black Chicagoans, or promoting hordes of Vietnamese policemen. That isn't quite what he meant. When he uses words such as "black" and "Asian" he means something very specific, and yet very vague at the same time.

The funny thing about reading the list of the top 100 rich Asians (why no list of black, or Arab, or Irish, by the way?) was that I didn't read about it in the English press.

As it happens, I was up in Scotland, staying with cousins in Blairgowrie, when this list of the top 100 richest Asians was issued, and the way it was reported in Scotland was very

different from the way it was reported down here. Why? Because, of course, there are some very rich Asians in Scotland, and so the Scottish media wanted to know how the rich Scottish Asians had done compared to rich English Asians, and how many Scottish Asians were on the list of the top 100. (Quite a few, as it happened.)

I can't make my mind up whether there is something reassuring or worrying about this immediate impulse to see things through Scottish eyes, to see how our Scottish Asians are doing. Is it a natural impulse to be pleased by the success of immigrants to Scotland? Or an equally natural impulse to see our Asian lads do well against the damned English Asian lads? Bit of both, I should think. And it isn't confined to a national level.

I remember once commenting to my cousin on the fact that there were no fewer than two Indian restaurants in Blairgowrie, and saying that at least the Indian families involved would have each other to talk to.

"I am not sure they will actually be on speaking terms," said my cousin drily. "There is a gulf between them."

"What gulf might that be?"

"One is a family of Indians from Dundee and the other is an Indian family from Glasgow."

Ah. So the dislike of some Scots for some other Scots has spread further than we think. But right now, at a time of Scottish elections for a parliament which binds all Scots together, that is a kind of prejudice we have to pretend doesn't even exist.



MILES KINGSTON

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THURSDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 15 April 1999

Heed Good Friday

GM drops on trial

Lax leadership

ie eye

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Europe's leaders must not slacken the drive for reform

YESTERDAY, EUROPEAN leaders met Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, to talk about the war in Kosovo. Afterwards, they had dinner with Romano Prodi, the president elect of the European Commission, to discuss reform of Europe's institutions.

It is right that European leaders are tackling both these matters. Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, cannot be given the succour of seeing any divisions within the EU. But nor should European governments allow the Commission to keep drifting following the resignation of the Commission President Jacques Santer and the 19 other commissioners because of corruption scandals.

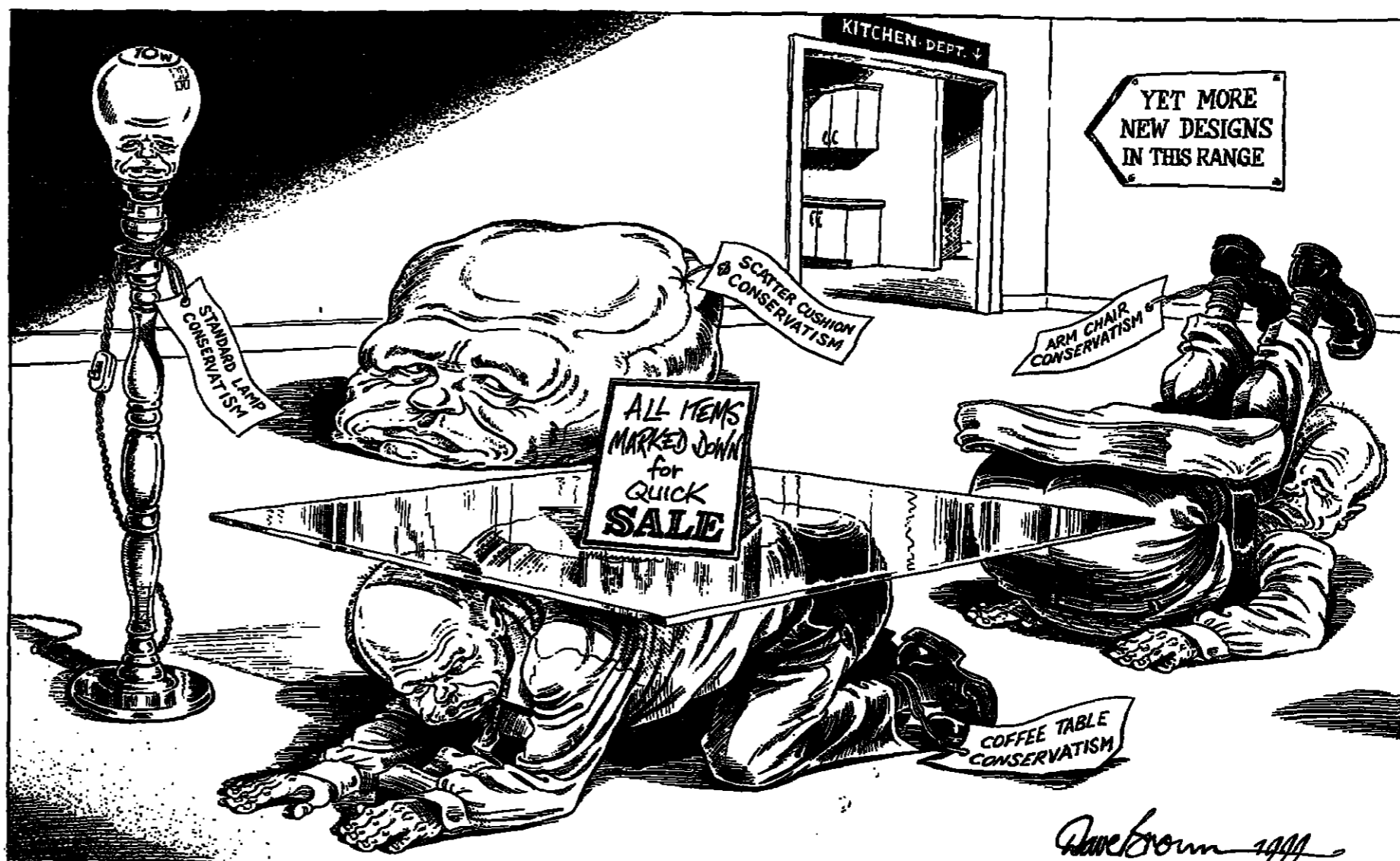
There are decisions to be made. Mr Prodi needs a team of commissioners to oversee the reform of the Commission. Following the scandals the European parliament has won the right to vet the candidates put forward by the member states. It should use this right to ensure that member states appoint commissioners who are ready to do the job at hand, and not those who take their posts as a reward for past domestic service.

The new candidates should not be appointed before the European elections in June. The next parliament will not feel bound by the decisions of its predecessor and the vetting will have to be done again. Not until early September will the new MEPs get going on the hearings.

There are three categories of existing commissioners. The first includes Edith Cresson, who has been named and shamed in the report on the Commission's failures. She could not be reappointed in any circumstances. The second category includes commissioners such as Sir Leon Brittan, who have not been specifically criticised and who have indicated that they do not want to work beyond the end of the year. The third category comprises those such as Neil Kinnock who want to serve for the next five-year term.

So Mr Prodi has a choice in September. Why should untainted commissioners such as Mr Kinnock be blamed for the malfeasance of others? Furthermore, as Sir Leon has argued, experienced people are needed during this period of the banana troubles and the war in Kosovo.

Mr Prodi should reject such arguments, however. The report that led to the mass resignation stressed that the Commission is a collective body and implicitly criticised all of the commissioners. By sacking all of them and having a new set starting in September, Mr Prodi would have a team that would be acceptable to both the member states and the parliament. This would enable the Commission to push ahead with such neglected tasks as appointing someone to bring together common foreign and security policy, as announced in the Amsterdam Treaty. If the EU is to rebut charges of being an economic lion but a military mouse, such an appointment is overdue.



## A welcome step to genetic openness

ON THE whole, copyright and patenting are good ways to reward and protect the intellectual effort required to make works of art or inventions that better the condition of humankind. However, the Human Genome Project, which maps the genetic blueprint of our species, creates a situation in which the status of patenting is unclear.

Ten large drug companies and five leading genetics research centres have announced that they will publish their findings on single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). SNPs are the genetic differences that may offer a clue, for example, to why some people develop lung cancer while others can smoke 20 cigarettes a day into their nineties.

The discovery of SNPs is a profitable business. Patents on the locations of these so-called genetic signposts - and

the diseases to which they are linked - can lead to a sparkling income for the discoverer. Such research is often undertaken by small firms that hope to sell patent rights to larger firms, which then develop the drugs that take advantage of these discoveries. The big drug companies fear that the smaller firms can restrict their exploration of this area of commercial activity, and want to publish SNP maps to prevent anyone from patenting them.

Centres of medical excellence want to publish the locations of these signposts on the genes so that they can pursue their research without having to pay crippling fees to research companies.

It is a sign of the future importance of medical genetics that drug companies, notoriously secretive, are prepared to share information. They feel that there is more to gain from open access to data than there is to lose by sharing their knowledge with competitors.

Once the information is freely available, the large pharmaceutical companies can set about doing what they

are best at - ie developing and marketing medicines. The Human Genome Project is an exception to the rule of the excellence of patenting. Governments should have recognised this fact some time ago and international treaties should have established the area as an endeavour that is outside the normal rules. It is a welcome action, if self-interested on the part of the large companies, to make gene know-how free for all.

## Bogus values

THE CONVICTION of Malaysia's former finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, on corruption charges simply shows how corrupt Malaysia itself has now become. This show trial has demonstrated the emptiness of the "Asian" values touted by Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Truth is, in Malaysia or in Manchester, Asians and Europeans alike will want nothing to do with Mr Mahathir's hypocritical defence of tyranny and torture.

# Trimble, Blair, Mowlam and Ahern should take a gamble on weapons

COLMCILE DOES not seem to like Nick Martin-Clark. I picture him now, bristly and squat, tapping out his furious, semi-literate messages in a state of desperation that this elegant rival might actually win converts. NMC himself, though the name belongs to a supercilious Brit from a Hollywood movie, is never anything but lucid and respectful. As well he might be, since he is a most unwelcome visitor to the republican bulletin board, the place where you go to chat after you've absorbed Gerry Adams's latest missive on the Sinn Fein website.

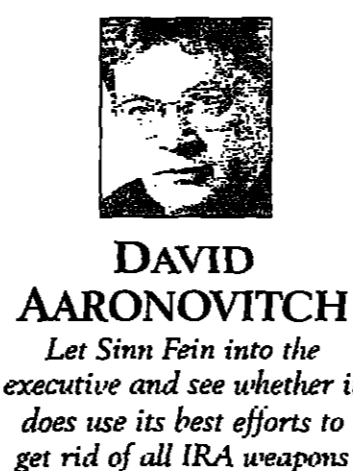
The issue over which Colmcile and NMC are falling out is the decommissioning of IRA weapons. NMC has gone to the bother of posting a comprehensive, analytical and non-partisan piece, arguing that the spirit of the peace process does now require some movement on the part of the IRA, even if - as he accepts - disarmament is not a pre-condition of moving ahead to the establishment of a new executive to run Northern Ireland. Colmcile, to the approbation of other contributors, replies thus: "I am surprised you [have] the time and still get over to Drumcree for peacekeeping there with the local Orange Order. You are scum and should keep to your own country, Colmcile."

You have to be careful with bulletin boards. Women turn out to be men and Sinn Feiners could really be bored sixth-formers trying to start a fight. But in trying to answer the baffling question, "Why, if they believe so strongly that the war is over, are the IRA so determined to hang on to every

last revolver?", it is much more useful to visit an uncensored site like this, than to attempt to interpret the theological and often gnostic pronouncements of Gerry and pals.

We all know that, in the fabled dawn moments before the Good Friday agreement was signed last year, a form of words was found which suggested that the paramilitaries would disarm a bit, but without making their doing so a stumbling-block to the rest of the process. This was part of what enabled David Trimble to sign up, whereupon much of the rest of his party fled. "All participants," read the agreement, "accordingly reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations. They also confirm their intention... to use any influence they may have, to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within two years following endorsement in referendums, North and South, of the agreement and in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement."

It is hard to understand this in any other way than that Sinn Fein, for its part, agreed to try its level best to get the Provos to give up all their weapons by Easter 2000. Not some. All. This was not, however, a pre-condition of Sinn Fein's entry into the executive. Quite right for they do indeed represent a substantial body of opinion in Northern Ireland, as tested in the 1998 assembly elections. But it was also obvious that a complete failure to achieve any movement whatsoever on decommissioning would put at risk Unionist support for the agreement.



DAVID AARONOVITCH  
Let Sinn Fein into the executive and see whether it does use its best efforts to get rid of all IRA weapons

Of course, we deal here partly with symbols. The Unionist insistence on disarmament is in danger of elevating the mere existence of weaponry above the willingness of human beings to use it. Were the conflict to begin again on the previous industrial scale, it might only be a matter of time before zealots got hold of replacement weapons. And we have heard a great deal of stuff about how Irish revolutionaries have always had a romantic need to bury their pikes and Semtex by lamplight. Nevertheless, this whole agreement has been an exercise in confidence building - which is substantially a symbolic process. Prisoners who have been responsible for terrible acts have been let out, without first repenting; the IRA, for its part, has located the graves of some of those whom it "executed" in the early Sev-

enties. To the anxious outsider it seems logical to say, "OK. You, Gerry Adams, get the IRA to give up some weapons and you, David Trimble, get the new executive up and motor. And do it at roughly the same time." Indeed, this - in essence - was what the Hillsborough declaration said a fortnight ago.

Now Gerry says that he is not in a position to oblige. In his Easter speech he was clear: "We cannot deliver the demand for IRA weapons, no matter how this is presented." But how should we interpret this? Are we to believe that Sinn Fein is trying hard ("using any influence they may have"), but that it cannot quite get the balalaava-ed ones to play ball? Initially, it doesn't sound like it. "One of the [British] provocations," Adams went on, "has been the demand on the IRA to disarm. This is something which the IRA has made clear it feels under no obligation to do." Technically, this is true. The IRA did not, as such, take part in the talks. Nevertheless, Sinn Fein is obliged to try and persuade the IRA, and pretty damn soon, too.

So, the question arises, under what circumstances would Gerry and Martin and Mitchell et al think that they do stand a chance of persuading the IRA to give up their weapons? When they take their places in an executive? Six months afterwards? When the loyalist paramilitaries give up theirs? Or never?

When David Trimble frightens us with his suggestions that he may no longer be able to command the support of his followers, this is at least

something that we can test. We can go out there and ask them, or we can take a poll. What is impossible for us to evaluate is whether Adams risks a split within the IRA by demanding decommissioning. It's easy for him to suggest that he's a reasonable guy, but that his mate is a bit mental and that that's his chair we're sitting on.

What makes this stance even more awkward is the way that Sinn Fein rhetoric faces in two directions at once. "Let me try also to assure our Unionist neighbours," says Adams, "We will do our best to remove any difficulties you may have and to understand your fears and your feelings. We will do everything we can within our ability to make this process work." And then, in the same breath, he blames British "securocrats" (whatever they are) for stoking up the decommissioning demand. The man is intelligent. He knows better than that; that it is the Unionist people themselves who want to have those arms put "beyond use".

I believe that Trimble, Blair, Mowlam and Ahern should take the gamble, and allow the executive to be formed, making it clear that they are calling Sinn Fein's bluff. Let it in and then see whether it does use its best efforts to get rid of all IRA weapons. For at some point they must go. You don't have to be a securocrat, for God's sake, to be alarmed by armed men. "Take no notice of Nick Martin-Clark," one of Colmcile's mates posted on the republican bulletin board yesterday. "His days are numbered." Anywhere else that would have read more like swaggering prophecy than threat.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We must see it as part of life's rich tapestry,"  
Terry Cordell  
on the break up of his son's 'blind-date' marriage,  
set up by a radio station three months ago

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is not the ape, nor the tiger in man  
that I fear; it is the donkey."  
William Temple  
former Archbishop of Canterbury

## KOSOVAR REFUGEES

### We're delivering what they need

Food, the means to purify water, soap, washing powder and the things mothers must have for the care of their babies.

WE HAVE THE SUPPLIES. PLEASE HELP US TO GET THEM TO THOSE WITHOUT. **FEED THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**

Families and companies are responding generously, donating the supplies that the refugees in Albania really need. Here's what it costs to get our aid trucks there and distribute carefully. Your gift of £230 will deliver a whole tonne of food, £300 will provide 100,000 litres of safe-drinking water, £50 will give 20 mothers essential supplies for their infants.

**DONATION LINE 01823 432533**

I want to help get vital supplies to needy Kosovar refugees.

Amount £ ..... Cheque/detach my Access/Visa/Switch/CAF card

Expiry ..... Valid from (Switch) .....

Issue no (Switch) ..... Valid from (Switch) .....

Signature .....

Mr/Mrs, Miss/Ms .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Tel: .....

Send to: Feed The Children (Kosovar Ind. 2 Appeal),  
PO, Box 4538, Henley-on-Thames RG9 4UE

Tel: 01829 473262 or 01179 555959. Reg Charity No 1634916

WE BELIEVE it is time to show the world that Pakistan is not a nation that is in love with dangerous weapons. We have to act differently so that the world really knows that it is India that spurs the arms race every now and then. Pakistan now has the opportunity to move on to the higher moral ground. While exercising restraint, we need to embark on a vigorous diplomacy aimed at telling the Americans and their Western allies that unless they stop

India from pursuing its military objectives, peace will remain an elusive goal in South Asia.  
Frontier Post, Pakistan

PAKISTAN HAS a few missiles and we need not go into the issue at this stage whether they were indigenously developed or acquired from abroad. A few Indian tests will bring the nature of Pakistani capability into the open. Given the rain of missiles over Yugoslavia, neither India nor for that matter

Pakistan can afford not to acquire missiles. The future good relations between India and Pakistan [are] dependent on their mutual recognition of the state of deterrence between

them and that is not affected by the range of the Ghauri missile.  
Times of India

SHOULD THE firing of Agni-II in any real sense add to Paki-

stan's sense of insecurity vis-à-vis India, or would it be to our advantage to continue the efforts for defusing tensions in the region? The question calls for a pragmatic non-emotional approach, based on the ground realities, and a careful assessment of what is in our best interest.  
Dawn, Pakistan

WE HAVE acquired a measure of competence in the fields of nuclear weapons over the last

two-and-a-half decades, during which we have faced sanctions, which we have survived. The question is whether we should agree to arrangements which may not just cap these competences but may prevent us from achieving the required pre-emptive technological abilities. Has India considered the possible intrusive non-discriminatory arrangement for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction practicable?  
Hindustan Times, India

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Comment on India's nuclear tests and Pakistan's possible retaliatory action

## PANDORA

THE WINNING star Gwyneth Paltrow (pictured) is the latest to succumb to the hottest new craze sweeping Planet Anglophone – the Brazilian Bikini Wax. You haven't heard? The Brazilian Bikini Wax is an absolutely rigorous intimate depilatory technique that reaches parts other treatments don't. Long popular with glamour models and blue-movie performers, the BBW also numbers Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington and Kirstie Alley among those who have come clean this week about their preference for this unusual personal grooming technique. "You changed my life!" Paltrow reportedly told the beautician who introduced her to the wax wax. Oh, and Gwyneth also keeps a *feng shui* book by her bed...

THE ROYAL National Institute for the Blind will launch SP, a new ladmag for guys with serious sight problems later this month. Good news: SP costs just 30p. Bad news: no Braille centrefolds.

THE TEEN agony aunt and author Sophie Parkin, who publishes her new novel *Take Me Home* this week, was a five-year-old child model for Crimplene. The experience may have warped her for life. "I will not wear natural fibres next to my body," she said at the Chelsea Arts Club this week. Hmmm, Pandora can feel a wardrobe inspection coming on...

DO SVEDANYA Hungry Duck? As eagle-eyed Independent readers will know from our Business Review, Moscow's legendary centre of decadence will shutter on 30 April. But Moscow's loss may be Minsk's gain – club boss Doug Steele says he may franchise the Duck there. Its entertainment policy guarantees excitement: freebies entice the glossiest talent; once young femmes cross the threshold they enjoy two hours of free drinks and a striptease and are encouraged to dance on the bar in "spontaneous" erotic performances. Only then does Steele admit guys. But a group of politicians from the Duma

dropped in unexpectedly – and discovered a burly male Nigerian ecologist on the bar with a female customer... as the sound system blasted out the national anthem. What will Minsk's moralists make of this? Belarus is a police state and Steele blames the closure on "that whole communist mentality".

PANDORA'S LITTLE book of doom falls open today at... the Welsh Secretary Alun Michael. The number plate on his election battle bus is NIL.

THE BEAT goes on – north of the Border, politics and music go together like gin and treacle. First we had New Lab recycling Kinnock's "Altogether Now" by the Farm. Scots Tories, 200-1 outsiders, have opted for M People's "Movin' On Up", more hip replacement than hip, as the optimistic sound-track to boost their electoral run. Could the SNP's shaky break from the electoral stalls be related to the party's choice of the distinctly dodgy "Caledonia"? Sample lyric: "I've been afraid that I might drift away... Now that I'm sitting here before the fire.../ the flames that couldn't get any higher – they've withered now they've gone." Maybe the Lib Dems were right to opt for the sounds of silence.

COMPUTER GAME wars. Two tiny computer firms, Connectix and Bleem, are squaring up to the Japanese-controlled consumer electronics giant Sony. The Silicone valley hotshots have devised 228 emulators that allow PC owners to enjoy PlayStation games without buying Sony's pricey platform. Sony's response? Injunctions. Coming soon to a console near you: Lara Croft, patent lawyer.

TESSA JOWELL, Minister for Public Health, was keynote speaker at a champagne reception at The Ivy this week. The topic? Alcohol awareness.

OVERHEARD AT Che during Helena Christensen's Nylon party – Photographer: "Look honey, we should talk." Agent: "Greg, we are talking."

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## Red stilettos in the chemistry lab



## SUE ARNOLD

My daughters, like every other 12-year-old in their class, had a violent crush on Miss Glover

THE MOST glamorous teacher at my daughters' secondary school was Miss Glover, the chemistry mistress. She wore red patent leather Manolo Blahnik open-toe stilettos in the chemistry lab despite large warning notices pinned to the wall forbidding all varieties of open footwear because of the dangers of chemical spillage. She had a mane of shoulder-length chestnut hair à la Cindy Crawford, which she wore loose in direct contravention of another warning notice pointing out the dangers of unfettered hair in laboratory conditions. As for the rule that forbade the consumption of all food and beverages in the science block, Miss Glover regularly ate her lunch sitting on a desk in front of the blackboard, swinging her stilettos and licking mayonnaise off her fingers as she instructed the girls how to use Bunsen burners.

All this I learnt from my daughters who, like every other 12-year-old in their class, had a violent crush on Miss Glover and, naturally, wanted to be like her when they grew up. "You mean you want to be a chemist?" I asked. Yes, they chorused. But not necessarily chemistry

teachers. They'd be very happy working in Boots. The first parent/teachers meeting I ever went to, I made a bee-line for Miss Glover's corner to see whether they'd been exaggerating. I couldn't get anywhere near it. The press of parents, mainly fathers, waiting to talk to Miss Glover about their daughters' progress was too great. The year before they did their GCSEs, Miss Glover left (presumably to go to

Hollywood) and thereafter no further mention was made by either daughter of a scientific career.

I mention all this only because of the latest suggestion put forward by educationists – that more girls would do science at A-level and university if they had more attractive role models. Maybe they are right, and if the only way to test the theory is by giving science teachers sports cars and a clothing allowance, that's fine by me.

The trouble is, I don't think it would work. It's not the teachers so much as the method of teaching that puts children off science. There is nothing I would like more than a child with a scientific bent. If all this talk about the two cultures is correct – that's the 1999 version of the two cultures, by the way: art for girls, science for boys – then theoretically I'm in with a chance with my sons.

Chance would be a fine thing. Like their sisters, who did languages, they too want to speak with tongues. For Christmas last year I gave the one who is heading for GCSEs a wonderfully complicated fold-up microscope to set him on course to win the Nobel Prize for

physics. "But I'm giving up physics, it's so boring," he said.

This too, it turned out, was the eventual verdict of my daughter's friend, who read natural sciences at Cambridge. She was one of the few who managed to survive the Glover gap. Finola, all agreed, had a natural talent for chemistry and would, one of these days, emulate the school's most famous old girl, Rosamund Franklyn, the DNA pioneer. Alas no. When she graduated, Finola spent a year doing research, then jacked it in in favour of a science broadcasting course. She's now working for television's most popular science programme. When I rang her yesterday to question her narrowly as to why she'd given up pure science for impure media, she thought I was replying to an ad she had placed in *Time Out* looking for women willing to have their breasts enlarged. "Why did I give up science? Because it was too focused, too narrow and, frankly, too boring. Imagine a whole year studying a single molecule."

The real issue, surely, is not why more girls aren't doing science but why anybody isn't doing science these days. You need As and Bs at

A-level to read languages and literature at university. Cs and Ds will bag you a place to read physics or chemistry, so desperate are the science departments. At the rate we're going, the only way to lure students into university laboratories will be to offer them a free Nintendo game or a season ticket to Man U with every module.

Everyone agrees that we don't set enough store by science. Or take it seriously. "Cambridge scientists discover 80 new ways to tie a tie" was the last big science story I read. As I came home on the bus the other day, the small girl on the seat beside me was reading aloud to her mother, not from a book but from a poster. "Physics is phun," it said, and went on to describe simply but interestingly why the bubbly bath disappears when you put the soap in. The campaign is being run by the Institute of Physics and with any luck will inspire its sister institutes to do the same. I want to discuss this excellent awareness campaign with my son's physics teacher. But, of course, he wouldn't know anything about it. He doesn't use buses. He drives to school in a Porsche.

## The cruel truth about the way the courts treat kids



## YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

As a 10-year-old victim said, 'Anyone can father a child, but that doesn't mean they can be a dad'

YOU ARE a mother of small children. A neighbour comes to the door and asks whether he can take your children out to the park with his own. You know that he is a brute who beats up his wife and that his kids always look frightened. The wife has ended up in hospital with face injuries. You would, I expect, shut the door in his face fast enough (with luck) to catch his nose.

But if this man were the father of your kids and you were the woman who had ended up with broken bones, slashes and burns, you would not have the right to shut that door – not unless a judge had granted you an injunction to keep him away from your children. Most of the time this does not happen, according to an agonising *Dispatches* television programme to be broadcast this evening.

Viewers will be shocked to learn that our judicial system does not take domestic violence into account when deciding whether or not a child should carry on seeing a non-custodial parent after separation. With 160,000 divorces a year, thousands of children are affected by this failure of the law. The partner can be protected from further abuse, but vulnerable children, at least until they grow up to be teenagers, are forced to see these men even if it causes them untold terror.

Eight-year-old Timothy (not his real name) cannot understand why. He never wants to see his "first daddy", because he is horrible and because he remembers him hitting his mother. Yet Timothy's father, who had been kept for years in a psychiatric hospital, won the right to see him. It took several further court cases for Timothy to get the protection he needed.

Two young sisters, also featured in the documentary, describe how their father bangs their heads down

on the desk or stabs them with forks if they make a mistake with their multiplication tables, and how they dream of him dying.

Yet the court ruled that the girls "benefited" from seeing their father. Some mothers have been imprisoned for refusing to follow such rulings. Sarah, a fragile woman with her pain bone-dry, recalls how she pleaded with court officials but failed to stop her husband getting access to Jack (three) and Nina (four), who frolic on a home video as she tells this story. The children were eventually killed by her husband, who then committed suicide. "It is too late," she says, her voice so gentle that you hardly hear her.

All this, you understand, is done in the "best interests of the child". Our society believes that a child will thrive only if both parents are present in his or her life. In an ideal world, and if the parents are conscientious, it is not a bad principle.

But it is insane and dangerous to make this into a pivotal, quasi-religious belief. In any case, it hardly stands up to any kind of rational

scrutiny. If two biological parents are so essential, are children brought up by widows eternally damned? Would we allow a cruel adoptive father to have a child, because any father is better than none?

Taking this line negates morality and personal responsibility for actions. What are we teaching future generations about abusive behaviour within families if we tell children in such families that their love and loyalty for their brutalised mothers and their own suffering in the hands of a violent father are of no consequence? That in effect, a single sperm cell gives a man immunity from social condemnation and inviolable rights over his product? We know from studies conducted in the United States since the Forties that juvenile offenders often have violent and alcoholic fathers. Angela Phillips, in her book, *The Trouble With Boys*, also points out that a man who beats up his partner "is going to teach his son that this is normal behaviour".

What is even more extraordinary is that we now have in place the Children Act, which was supposed to give vulnerable children a half-decent chance to make a go of their lives. It turns out that, in this area, the Act is more or less ineffective. The first-ever research about children in contact with violent fathers after separation shows that many of these children are neglected and beaten and some are sexually abused during visits. In a quarter of the cases, the fathers were drunk and one in seven of the children was left on its own.

What makes it worse – and the children say this – is that the mothers are not there to safeguard them. Dr Lorraine Radford, an expert on children and domestic violence, is convinced that we need a radical rethink of the law in order to stop the



A scene from tonight's 'Dispatches' programme

legally sanctioned victimisation of already traumatised children.

Why have we allowed this situation to develop? I think the reasons lie deep within our social attitudes to children. We still think of them as our possessions, commodities and chattels, to be divided up neatly after divorce. The Dickensian father may have become the stuff of costume drama, but the Victorian assumptions of paternal power still determine our laws and behaviour. In our wisdom we rely on the truism: "He is, after all, the father."

This means that whatever he does, however bad he is, some distant moment of ejaculation gives a father rights that should never, ever, be taken away. As one articulate 10-year-old points out in the programme: "Anyone can father a child. But that doesn't mean they can be a dad."

We need urgently to change the law, although the Lord Chancellor's Department appears to have no plans for this in the near future. According to some senior family lawyers, it may even be possible to

use the existing Children Act to change practice by introducing new guidelines for judges and court welfare officers who make the assessments on whether or not children should see their fathers. These officers are not trained in child psychology nor the effects of domestic violence. Jack and Nina died because the officer in charge did not understand the psychotic condition of their father.

But, most of all, we need to talk to the children and to treat them as equal citizens in our society. They are individuals who must be entitled to participate in decisions about parental contact. This will not happen unless we understand that we have no absolute rights over our children, but that as caring adults we must promote and protect their rights. We may give them life, but their lives are not our property. And in the end, you have to earn the privilege of parenting by proving that you are worth it.

'Dispatches' will be shown on Channel 4 this evening at 9.30pm

## THE INDEPENDENT

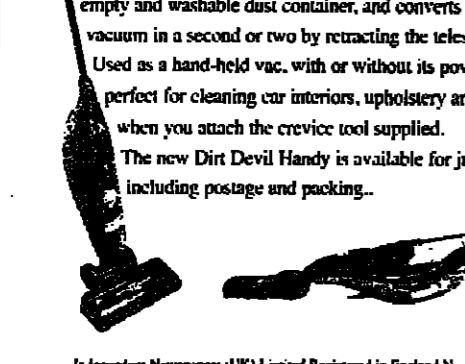
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## Giving rescue dogs extra appeal



## PODIUM

DEBORAH WELLS  
From a talk by a  
psychologist at the  
Queen's University of  
Belfast to the British  
Psychological Society

EVERY YEAR, thousands of dogs end up in the care of their local animal rescue shelter. Unfortunately, most of these animals are destroyed because they cannot be rehoused. The chances of a sheltered dog becoming rehoused are highly dependent upon a visitor finding it appealing.

Many factors may determine a dog's appeal and its consequent chances of being rehoused (eg its breed or its cage environment), although of interest here is the dog's behaviour, which has been found to influence its desirability.

Research indicates that potential buyers prefer dogs that are at the front rather than the back of the cage, quiet as opposed to barking, and alert, ie standing, sitting or moving, rather than non-alert, ie resting or sleeping.

Unfortunately, very few dogs in rescue shelters exhibit such publicly acceptable behaviours and their chances of being rehoused are consequently at risk.

This study examined the behaviour of sheltered dogs in response to three types of environmental change – in-

creased human social stimulation, moving the dog's bed to the front of the cage, suspending a toy from the front of the dog's cage – to determine whether it influenced dog behaviour in ways that could be perceived as desirable to potential dog buyers.

The procedure for recording the dogs' behaviour was exactly the same in all three studies. Twenty-four male and 18 female dogs of different breeds were used as subjects. Dogs were studied on a Sunday, when visitors to the shelter are relatively high in number, and on a weekday, when there are few visitors.

A bone chew was used as the stimulus toy. This was suspended from the front of the cage by a chain. Dogs were studied on a day when the toy was present at the front of the cage (the toy condition) and a day when there was no toy in the cage (the control condition).

Increased social stimulation and the presence of a bed at the front of the cage both significantly influenced the dog's position in the cage. Both these factors encouraged dogs to spend more of their time at the front of the cage and less time

at the rear. The dog's position in the cage was not significantly influenced by the presence of a toy at the front of the pen.

Dogs' activity was influenced by social stimulation. They preferred to spend more of their time standing during the social condition than resting, sitting, moving or sleeping.

The presence of neither a bed nor a toy at the front of the pen significantly altered the dog's activity.

Social stimulation exerted the greatest influence on dog behaviour. The presence of visitors to the shelter had a positive effect on the dogs' position in the cage, enticing them to the front of the pen. It also had a positive effect on their activity, encouraging them to spend more time standing.

These are both types of behaviour that potential buyers find appealing in a dog. Dogs showed a slightly greater tendency to bark in the presence of visitors, which may reflect negatively upon potential buyers of the animals.

However, the increase in barking during the condition of social stimulation was only small. The dogs are not necessarily barking at the visitors; they may be barking in response to the "commotion" caused by the presence of a large number of people.

Moving the dogs' beds to the front of their enclosures resulted in the animals spending more of their time at the front of the cage. This cage manipulation may help to promote the welfare of sheltered dogs.

People prefer dogs that have a bed in the cage to those that have no bed in the cage. Since

the dogs' beds are normally kept at the rear of the pen, visitors may not notice their presence in the cage. By moving the bed to the front of the enclosure, however, it is made easier for visitors to see the bed, and, hopefully, also the dog, which appears to spend most of its time in the vicinity of its own bed.

Very few of the dogs showed any interest in the addition of a toy to the cage. However, it may still be in a dog's best interests to have such an item present. Potential buyers prefer dogs that have an enrichment item in the cage to dogs that are held in a barren pen, even if the animal is not seen playing with the stimulus. Simply suspending a toy from the front of a dog's cage, so that it is within the view of the visitors, may indirectly improve the dogs' welfare by enhancing public perceptions of canine desirability.

It is thought that by designing cages that encourage dogs to behave in a publicly acceptable manner it may eventually be possible to increase the number of dogs that are rehoused from rescue shelters.



# The Right Rev Mgr Thomas Hughes

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THOMAS HUGHES was a man of the people. A parish priest first and a member of the Catholic hierarchy second, his teaching was eloquent, down to earth, and clear. While he will be best remembered by his flock for the pastoral care he showed them, it is for his patient overseeing of the construction of Clifton Cathedral, in Bristol, that his diocese has cause to be thankful for his 60 years of service.

Following the Reformation, it was not until the political emancipation of 1839 that English Catholics were able openly to construct a church in Bristol. Work began in 1834 but the site, like many hillside areas of the rapidly expanding city, proved treacherous, and the original design, for a grandiose Victorian edifice, was abandoned.

In 1846, the Vicar Apostolic, Bishop Ullathorne, raised a fund to roof the half-finished building. A timber structure based on the principles of inverted ship construction was added and the church was formally opened in September 1848. With the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England by Pope Pius IX two years later, Clifton became an Episcopal See, and the Church of the Twelve Apostles became the cathedral until such time as a cathedral proper could be constructed.

It was to this pro-cathedral that Thomas Hughes, a 23-year-old farmer's son from Co Kilkenny, came to be ordained in 1909. With three of his brothers already priests, Hughes had studied at Prior Park College in Bath and later at the College of St Sulpice in Paris. He served his curacies in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, and at the pro-cathedral. Subsequently he was a parish priest in both Bristol and Bath before being appointed parish priest of the pro-cathedral and Vicar General of the Clifton Diocese in 1962.

Although there was much work to be done in the diocese – particularly as the bishop, Bishop Rudderham, was heavily involved in the Second Vatican Council – Hughes main-



The principal requirement for Clifton Cathedral was to provide a space where a congregation of 1,000 could be grouped closely around the altar

tained that his first priority was to the parishioners of the pro-cathedral in the Georgian quarter of Bristol. His vision for a suitable building to be the centre of diocesan worship was shared by his colleagues and in August 1965 architects from the Percy Thomas Partnership were commissioned to undertake the design and construction of a new cathedral.

The Council's decree on liturgical worship helped to focus attention at the embryonic Clifton Cathedral on the participation by all the people with the bishop and his priests in the celebration of the Eucharist. The principal requirement was

therefore to provide a space where a congregation of 1,000 could be grouped closely around the altar so that they should feel and be a part of the celebration of the mass.

The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Rudderham in September 1970 and work was completed on time and on budget at an overall cost, including adjacent clergy house and offices, of £800,000. This was in no small part due to Hughes's inspired stewardship. The cathedral was dedicated to St Peter and St Paul in the presence of the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Heenan, on 29 June 1973, the feast of those two Apostles. On the same day came news that Hughes was to be honoured for his work by Pope Paul VI with the title Protosynodal Apostolic.

The cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Clifton which covers the regions of North Somerset, Bath, North and South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, South Somerset, and Bristol. More than 130,000 Catholics look to it not so much as an architectural monument, but as a symbol and focus for the unity of the church. From the start Hughes ensured the cathedral gained an international reputation for the celebration of the liturgy. The building is also regularly used for public concerts, continuing the centuries-old tradition of the Church's patronage of the arts.

Following heart surgery by Professor Magdi Yacoub, Hughes retired in 1981 to St Angela's Convent in Bristol, from where he kept in touch with his many friends. He continued to work throughout the diocese, preaching, teaching and leading days of prayer. He was the first person to be buried in the grounds of the new cathedral.

TIM BULLAMORE

Thomas John Hughes, priest: born Johnstown, Co Kilkenny 19 July 1915; ordained priest 1939; Vicar General, Diocese of Clifton 1962-81; Protosynodal Apostolic 1973; died Bristol 1 April 1999.



Tu'iipelehake (far left) after the double royal Tongan wedding of 10 June 1947; his brother, Prince Tungli, has been king since 1965

## Prince Fatafehi Tu'iipelehake

YOU WILL have heard of a president for life – Dr Hastings Banda of Malawi is one example – but maybe not of a prime minister for life. However, that in essence is what could have happened in the last remaining Polynesian kingdom, the Kingdom of Tonga, after Queen Salote died in 1965. She was succeeded as sovereign by her first son and premier, Prince Tupouto'a Tungli. The constitution of Tonga (virtually unchanged since 1875 and allowing no political parties) empowers the head of state to appoint all ministers of the Crown; and in those Friendly Islands of the South Pacific, he or she who appoints does not normally disappoint.

So it was that Tungli, having become King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, then named his younger brother to succeed him as premier and later prime minister. It was a post which Prince Fatafehi Tu'iipelehake, the second son of Queen Salote Tupou III and Prince Viliami Tupoulahi Tungli, was to hold without interruption, and without having to face the polls, for close to 26 years. It is easy to see why he was frequently the longest serving prime minister

incumbent at biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings until, in August 1991, ill-health compelled his retirement.

The two royal brothers were comparable in size and weight – at least 700lb between them for many years – but they were widely different in temperament, personality, intellect and style. Tu'iipelehake's more modest scholastic attainments can be attributed to Newington College, a Methodist secondary school in Sydney to which royal Tongan sons and those of the nobility were often sent; and to Gattton Agricultural College in Queensland. The brothers were both married, in a joint royal wedding ceremony, in 1947. From 1949 to 1951 Tu'iipelehake was governor of Vava'u, the northern of the three main groups of islands that make up Tonga, of which some 36 are permanently inhabited.

It is true that the younger prince had no pretensions to intellectual stature. Indeed, you could say that he spent all his life – not only in that respect – in the shadow of his elder brother, the King. Yet whereas the new King in 1965 was aloof – while deeply respected and inspiring awe

as the pinnacle of Tongan rank – Tu'iipelehake was approachable, open, generous-hearted and jovial. His laughter was huge, infectious and uncomplex. His warmth and humanity were that of his mother. In this way it was in Tu'iipelehake that she lived on in the perceptions of ordinary Tongans; for he too was loved by his people. And then there was his unexpected modesty – unexpected, that is, in one so well placed by birth and thus favoured at home and abroad. It never left him in spite of the preferments, the customary salutations, gifts and tributes – and limousines.

In 1966, he was appointed an honorary CBE in the Queen's Birthday List. We wrote from Fiji to congratulate him. He replied, using our Tongan names, to say that: "The award is very high indeed, yet it was a great surprise to me, as I cannot think of any accomplishment that I have done." Four years later Tonga, which had been a British protectorate since 1900, acquired full independence within the Commonwealth.

In February 1991, I called on Tu'iipelehake after a meeting of the Privy Council. He had presided as Prince Regent in the absence of the King, who was in New Zealand. He was seated across the floor in the great chair reserved for the head of state. On the wall above him, symbolically, was a large colour photograph of his elder brother in the full dress uniform of King and Commander in Chief.

The lines of strain on his face had deepened; the voice was high and faltering; the eyes wandered; the smile was pale and fleeting. But the warmth was still there. Afterwards, soldiers lifted him slowly and carefully from the chair. They steadied his slow, stick-aided progress to the entrance of the chamber and gently helped him into HM2, the black hearse-like limousine which waited outside.

KENNETH BAIN

Fatafehi Tu'iipelehake: born 7 January 1923; Governor of Vava'u 1949-51; Prime Minister of Tonga 1965-91; Hon CBE 1966, Hon KBE 1977; married 1947 Princess Melenau Tupou Moheaga (died 1992; two sons, four daughters); died Auckland, New Zealand 10 April 1999.

## Frank Tuohy

WHEN FRANK Tuohy was born, it was soon discovered that he had a then inoperable heart condition, a hole in the heart, and his father, a doctor of Irish origin, came to the tragic conclusion that it was extremely unlikely that he would survive into his twenties. It was only after the introduction of open-heart surgery when Tuohy was already in his forties, that a successful operation was performed. Now, instead of living with the fear that each day might be his last, Tuohy suddenly realised that he could look forward to a normal life span.

That for so many years he lived so closely with the idea of imminent death must have accounted, in some part at least, for the stoical fatalism that he brought in equal measure to his writings and his life. Both were not without their fun – he had a ready wit, an acute sense of the ridiculous, and an ability to enjoy himself and give enjoyment to others if they were the right sort of people and he in the right mood – but in both books and life he gave the impression of always being morbidly aware of human mortality.

It was the fragility of his health that resulted in his failure, despite success in Moral Sciences and English at King's College, Cambridge, to be accepted into the permanent service of the British Council. Instead, the Council appointed him to a number of academic posts abroad. The second of these, after a brief period in Finland, was a six-year tenure of the Chair of English Literature at São Paulo University, Brazil, which provided him with the inspiration for two novels set in a

South America of corruption, erratic passions, and political disorder.

The first of these novels, *The Animal Game* (1957) centres on a numbers game in which the numbers have the names of animals. All the characters, Tuohy suggests, have entered a lottery merely by living. The same theme of life being dominated by capricious chance was to reappear, explicitly or implicitly, in much else that he wrote.

After this brilliant début he produced a successor, *The Warm Nights of January* (1960), no less remarkable in its ability, in a mere 200 pages, to distill the essence, potent and sometimes even lethal, of life in an environment so different from the cultivated, prosperous, upper middle-class one in which he had been brought up.

A posting to Krakow University resulted in *The Ice Saints* (1964). The year is 1960, and a young English girl arrives in a university town of People's Poland, on a visit to her elder sister, who is married to a Polish professor, also a party member. Inevitably, it is only a matter of time before national conventions and beliefs come into collision with each other, and before the unsophisticated English girl falls in love with a highly sophisticated and, it finally emerges, duplicitous Pole. The only failure of this novel is Tuohy's shirking of any attempt to describe the sexual seduction of the girl by the man. It is about to take place, and then it has taken place; there is nothing in between.

As a writer, Tuohy resembled Somerset Maugham in being ill at ease with sex, usually viewing it as something at best ludicrous and at



Tuohy: mordant Mark Gerson

worst nasty. In all other respects this is a masterly novel, at once ferociously funny and compassionately sad in its depiction of the subterfuges and small betrayals by which people struggle to survive in a Communist state.

After these three books, which, in the words of C.P. Snow, established Tuohy "in the first flight of English novelists," he produced no more novels. There was, fortunately, the compensation of three marvellously varied and rich collections of short stories. Critics often compared him to Chekhov in his deceptively matter-of-fact manner and the way in which the events that he described were so often a part of everyone's experience. But a comparison to Maupassant would be even more apt. Each story, mordant, concise and a small miracle of construction, represents, as he himself put it, "a painful bite down on the rotten tooth of fact".

In his latter years, Tuohy's output dwindled sadly. Even the honours which came his way – among them, the Katherine Mansfield Short Story Prize for his first book of stories *The Admiral and the Nuns* in 1960, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for *The Ice Saints* in 1965, and the final accolade of the E.M. Forster Award of the American Institute of Arts and Letters in 1972 – did not dissolve the recurrent writer's block from which he suffered.

For some 20 years, while filling unexciting but lucrative university posts in Japan, he was working on a fourth novel, left uncompleted on his death. When not engaged on it, he wrote an excellent biography of Yeats, a short book about Portugal, and some more fine short stories. His lack of productivity may have accounted, in part at least, for his intermittent somberness and misanthropy during his last years.

Frank Tuohy set extremely high standards for others in his brilliant and far too rare work as a reviewer. He set even higher standards for himself, and destroyed anything that in his opinion, fell below them. That was admirable, but also a cause for regret. Even at his second best he was better than most of his contemporaries at their best.

FRANCIS KING

John Francis Tuohy, novelist and short story writer: born Uckfield, East Sussex 2 May 1925; Professor of English Language and Literature, University of São Paulo 1950-56; FRSL 1965; died Shepton Mallet, Somerset 11 April 1999.

## Roger Fressoz

BEHIND ITS constitutional façade of *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*, French political life remains rife with nepotism and financial shenanigans. Thankfully, the satirical weekly paper *Le Canard Enchaîné*, France's answer to *Private Eye*, keeps a watchful eye over the misbehaviour of politicians and the business community.

Roger Fressoz, the journalist who in 1968 became the paper's editor, did more than most to expose various scandals. He quadrupled the paper's circulation, generated more debate and controversy than the rest of the French media put together and affected the results of several elections.

Born in the Savoie area of Eastern France in 1921, Fressoz was 30 when he joined *Le Canard Enchaîné*; at the time it was struggling to sell 100,000 copies a week. Fressoz's creative use of tax havens just as the mayor of Bordeaux had his sights trained on the Élysée. The French

pseudo-historical column written by Fressoz, "Using an old-fashioned style enables you to be much more vicious. The subjective imperfect is more civilised and, the more polite and polished your style, the stronger the material can be," he explained.

He became deputy editor in 1963 and editor five years later. In his mission statement he declared:

Le Canard should act the court-jester, taunting the prince and his sycophantic courtiers, but also be the safeguard of the Republic, denouncing the excesses, the mistakes, the abuses of people in power in order to protect the average citizen.

De Gaulle's departure in 1968 saw Fressoz's column adopt the heading "La Régence" to report on Georges Pompidou. Subsequently, *Le Canard* played a major role in exposing Jacques Chaban Delmas's creative use of tax havens just as the mayor of Bordeaux had his sights trained on the Élysée. The French

industrialist Marcel Dassault's tax returns were also gleefully published. Following Pompidou's death in office, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing acceded to the presidency in 1974. Ridiculed as "Le Chevalier d'Auvergne", he fell foul of *Le Canard* when he accepted a gift of jewels from the African head of state Jean Bedel Bokassa without declaring it. The ensuing furor undoubtedly contributed to François Mitterrand's election victory in 1981.

"Tonton" ("Uncle") Mitterrand instantly blotted his copybook with *Le Canard* by appointing his son as special adviser on African affairs. Fressoz also wasted no time in exposing the President's friendship with René Bousquet, a Pétainiste who in 1942 had rounded up 13,000 Jews in Paris before handing them over to the Germans. In 1981, *Le Canard* had accused Maurice Papon of a similar offence, starting a lengthy investigation which led to Papon's eventual trial two years ago.

With such reporting zest and an impressive flair for scoops, *Le Canard* now regularly sells half a million copies and is a truly independent newspaper on a sound financial footing. However, Fressoz, who became chairman and managing director of the publication in 1970, eventually retired due to ill-health in 1992, although he was still a regular contributor.

PIERRE PERRONE

Roger Fressoz, journalist, editor: born La Compote, France 30 October 1921; married (two daughters, two sons, and one daughter deceased); died 26 March 1999.



Fressoz as canard

## Brownie Mary

SHE CUT an unforgettable figure, looking for all the world like someone's kindly grandmother as she distributed her "magically delicious" brownies among the Aids patients of San Francisco General Hospital. Mary Jane Rathbun – Brownie Mary, as she became universally known – may have looked harmless enough, but she was a rebel at heart who became the stuff of San Francisco legend.

For more than 20 years she baked her chocolate cakes, at first selling them in the city's Castro district out of a napkin-lined basket and then, after the onset of the Aids epidemic in the early 1980s, turning her kitchen into a veritable production line to ease the nausea and pain of patients in the terminal stages of their illness.

She called Aids patients her "kids" and, at the height of her activity, baked as many as 1,500 brownies a month

with the money from her social security cheques, as well as the help of anonymous well-wishers who left chunks of marijuana on her doorstep.

She not only became a hero to San Francisco's gay community, but took up the broader cause of legalising marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Thanks to her, the issue found its way on to a popular ballot in 1996, making California the first state to contemplate the medical use of soft drugs.

Born in Minnesota to an Irish Catholic mother oblivious to the druggy connotation the name Mary Jane was to have, she came to San Francisco during the Second World War with two girlfriends, found work as a waitress and married a soldier.

The turning-point in her life came in the early 1970s, when her 22-year-old daughter Jenny died in a car accident. With her marriage long since over and her only child gone, she

reached out to the young gay men of the Castro and formed a near-maternal bond with many of them. The marijuana brownies started out as a way to make a living but evolved slowly into a cause.

Busted periodically for her activities, she spent hundreds of hours doing community service with Aids patients and, after experimenting to ease the pain of arthritis in her own knees, became the figurehead of the

medical marijuana movement. By the time Brownie Mary was arrested in a friend's house in Sonoma County in 1992, her fame was such that the police did not dare press charges against her.

She published a book, *Brownie Mary's Marijuana Cookbook*, and was honoured by the city of San Francisco with her very own memorial day. Crippled by arthritis and wheelchair-bound after a fall last

summer, she lived out her last few months in a nursing home. Her friend and lawyer, Larry Bittner, said: "Brownie Mary was a hero for our time, in a world with few heroes."

ANDREW GUMBEL

Mary Jane "Brownie Mary" Rathbun, drugs campaigner and charity worker: born Minnesota 22 December 1921; one daughter deceased; died San Francisco 10 April 1999.



# I'm in love with my ex-husband

Alex is in love again with the man she divorced 15 years ago for being hyper-critical, controlling and belittling. He now lives in Spain. But he's had a heart attack and says, 'gently', that he can't have sex, which is very important to Alex. Should she take a young lover?

## VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

**F**unny. When I read this dilemma I get the same sensation as I get when watching a film where people are chatting happily in a room and suddenly the camera pans to the doorknob which, ever so slightly, starts to turn – accompanied by a frightful screeching of violins. Things, in fact, are not as they seem.

This toy-boy stuff is a total red herring. Poor old Alex is being led down a dreadfully familiar garden path. Fifteen or so years ago she fell in love with her husband. Then he slowly turned into one of those horribly critical and controlling characters that she couldn't stand, so she divorced him. Now, with all the ghastly memories erased from her mind, she's met him again. She's fallen in love with him again. And I wouldn't be remotely surprised if, in rather less than 15 years, she divorces him again. Why? Because I can already sense that he's on the controlling tack.

He must know how much sex means to her, and he's already punishing her, perhaps for dumping him in the first place, by saying that her favourite activity is out of bounds. He's not saying it

with any wringing of hands. He doesn't say that it's awful and that he'll do his very best to find help that might make him able to have sex. He doesn't say that though he can't have sex he'll do anything in his power to help her reach sexual satisfaction some other way. No, he tells her "gently". (Screeching violins again.) And certainly he doesn't tell her the truth, and that is that apart from a few exceptional circumstances, which would probably mean he was pretty much of an invalid – which Alex hasn't mentioned – there's no reason why he shouldn't have sex after a heart attack, anyway.

No, that's one of those bits of folklore that seems to have hung on, like the one that says mumps makes you sterile (it can, but it's pretty unlikely).

According to an excellent little leaflet on sex and heart attacks published by the British Heart Foundation, in general if someone can walk 300 yards on the level comfortably or climb two flights of stairs briskly without getting chest pain or puffing, sex is on. (Since I can't walk up two flights of stairs without dragging myself along by the banisters, I'm starting to worry about sex myself, but that's another

story.) If he finds he gets angina after sex, there's medication he can take. If he's impotent, it could be due to his medication. But most men who go off sex after heart attacks are usually suffering from simple anxiety, or they've never been told that it's OK.

Maybe in Spain the advice Alex's ex has been given is different, but that's the view from here. So I'm not even going to answer Alex's question about toy-boys, which sounds an extremely dangerous idea. If her ex really can't have a sex life himself, there are masses of ways he could give her a good sex life if he wanted. And if he can, which is what I suspect, then why is he holding back except because the old controller in him has been roused, and this is just the beginning of a re-run of the old movie in a Spanish setting?

Alex should be on guard. And before she packs up all her furniture and trundles off to Heathrow, she should at least read her old diaries, if she kept them. Sometimes it's salutary to remember the bad times as well as the good.

## DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



Sacrifices will be needed. Alex must ask her ex-husband if "not having sex" means he doesn't want to share a bed and enjoy cuddles and mutual stimulation. Around the time of our ruby wedding we abandoned penetrative sex but still both enjoy orgasms – not always on the same occasion – and the thrill of pleasuring each other.

But if he is worried that sexual activity will affect his heart, Alex must accept that his health concerns are likely to invade other areas of life; that she will have to make sacrifices, and that feelings of inadequacy in a formerly dominating man may make him difficult to live with.

A "younger lover" would not help the situation. "DARBY AND JOAN" Surrey

Are you bent on revenge? First, you should resist being fooled into thinking that your husband's personality has been transformed by his heart attack – he is still the same man whom you divorced for belittling you. You would be wise to examine your motivation in renewing the relationship. In doing so, then taking a younger lover behind his

## READERS' SUGGESTIONS

back, there may be an element of revenge for the way he treated you when you were married. If you are in love with him in any real and lasting sense, you would relinquish the idea of a sexual relationship and not embark upon a deceitful, and, to the potential younger lover possibly exploitative, affair. MS HEIDI GJERTSEN Cambridge

A toy-boy is a bad idea. What was Alex's sexual rela-

tionship with her former husband like before they divorced? And why does she think he would not belittle her now?

But there must be some aspects of his character that are still attractive. People are rarely entirely incompatible; Alex is sensible and honest to acknowledge his good points.

Sex with another outside a relationship is a minefield. Most people want their sex with the person they love and live with. NAME WITHHELD

## NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, My dear wife died last year and I'm beginning to get over the shock. She'd begun to accept my transvestism; we spent some evenings both dressed "en femme" and she let me wear a nightie in bed. Now I can dress as much as I want to, and all the time under my male garb, but it's so lonely. I can't give it up. I've tried throwing out my wardrobe, but a month later I'll buy a new set. How do I meet a lady who will accept me?

And how do I broach the subject? I can't bear to resign myself to being a solitary, sad transvestite. Yours sincerely, Paul

Anyone with advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from the editor. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, "The Independent", 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk, giving a postal address for a bouquet

# As the judge said to Dr Death: 'No one, sir, is above the law'

Jack Kevorkian has been jailed for more than 10 years. But for the euthanasia campaigner this was not bad news – it was an ambition fulfilled. By Mary Dejevsky

**J**ack Kevorkian has been trying to have himself jailed – jailed or vindicated – for the best part of a decade. Now he is finally behind bars, sentenced this week to a minimum of 10 years for the murder of a terminally ill man who pleaded to be put out of his misery. "No one, sir," the judge told him firmly, but gently, "is above the law."

Jack Kevorkian, who has made the "right to die" his personal crusade, smiled through Judge Jessica Cooper's sentencing. He smiled when she refused bail, and smiled when she said that any appeal would be publicly funded, and smiled when the handcuffs were snapped on to his wrists and he was led away.

It had been a bizarre encounter: the middle-aged woman judge, the white-haired and frail-looking former pathologist, and the jury of 12 men and women who had been called upon to decide whether he was

a saviour or a criminal. Their verdict, and Judge Cooper's sentence, turned on a grainy amateur video, recorded by the doctor – whether in his own defence, or in the manner of an advert for his professional services, was never clarified.

The slightly blurred figure in the video looked younger by far than his 52 years, and strangely guileless. The hair and beard were brown with, so far as you could tell, not a streak of grey; the features seemed those of a man in his early forties. But there was no mistaking that he was desperately ill. His facial expression was dull and his sunken eyes darted anxiously. His head lolled back periodically on his neck. He could hardly lift his arms.

"Have you thought hard about it?" asks a disembodied voice, quite gently.

"Yes, I have," says the man, his words more like rumbles, and barely intelligible.

He is sitting in a wheelchair behind what looks like an ordi-

nary home table. He is wearing green, striped pyjamas, or perhaps it is a jazy shirt.

"It is the loss of your arms that really bothers you," says the voice again, with a slightly rising inflexion that expects an answer. But the moment has passed. The man cannot hold up his head long enough to answer. He is shown a picture of himself in a car – the sort of car that, until three years before, he had been racing.

"I want to make sure you understand this statement," cajoles the voice, then reads: "I, Thomas Youk, the undersigned, entirely voluntarily, and without any reservation... without any external pressure, persuasion and duress... hereby consent to the following procedures..." The doctor, who is the owner of the voice, runs through, a little like a revision teacher, the substances and injections that will lead to "certain death".

As vigorously as he can, the patient nods and mouths "Yes". The doctor briskly clarifies that Youk does not want to donate his organs. Another nod and "Yes". Then Youk slowly lifts one arm on to the table and signs his name.

The video had shocked America when it was shown in edited form on television last November. But what was shown in the Michigan courtroom three weeks ago was the unexpurgated version.

Jack Kevorkian, the 70-year-old retired pathologist known across the continent as "Dr Death", was charged with intentionally killing Thomas Youk. But the national show-down over the legality and ethics of euthanasia that he had sought for so long did not turn out that way. The county assistant prosecutor, John Skrzynski, saw the death of 56-year-old Youk as a straight-up-and-down murder case, and the judge agreed.

In court, as outside it, the doctor presented an ambiguous figure. Though he looked frail, he spoke firmly, phrasing his sentences clearly and almost elegantly. He could have been almost any pensioner from the professional classes. Yet there was something sinister, even ghoulish, about him. His large ears are pointed, like those of a fantasy extraterrestrial; his gaze seems to pierce; his voice, while assured, sounds eerie.

For Jack Kevorkian, the trial was the culmination of a cru-



Dr Kevorkian is handcuffed and led away by Oakland County sheriffs Reuters

side that he had waged for a decade and led him, by his own acknowledgment, to help 133 people to die. Or to kill them, depending on your point of view.

He started in 1990, touting for people – in the words of his advert – "oppressed by fatal disease, a severe handicap, a crippling deformity... Show him proper, compelling medical evidence that you should die, and Dr Jack Kevorkian will help you kill yourself free of charge". His first known victim, or beneficiary – depending on your viewpoint – was 54-year-old Janet Adkins that same year. A murder charge followed, but was dropped, though his doctor's licence was suspended the next year.

Last month's trial in Pontiac was the fifth time he had been brought to book for helping people to commit suicide – a crime in Michigan as in every state except (since a referendum last year) Oregon. He was acquitted three times; the fourth was declared a mistrial. In the latest trial, Kevorkian was up for murder. Youk, who suffered from the disease-wasting Lou Gehrig's disease, was too incapacitated to kill himself; the doctor applied the needle.

That was what clinched the verdict. That, and the doctor's boundless quest for publicity. He passed the video to CBS television's flagship documentary programme, 60 Minutes, which incorporated it into a broadcast programme about the doctor last November. In doing so, Jack Kevorkian had made what might have remained private, public, and forced the authorities' hand.

"We believe," said the doctor's lawyer-turned-adviser, David Gorosh, at the start of the trial, "that the jurors will understand the difference between murder and an act of compassion, mercy." They did and they didn't: they convicted him of murder in the second degree. Not premeditated killing, but killing none the less.

They rejected the absolutist rhetoric of the prosecutor, who had spoken of the doctor coming to Youk's home "like a medical hitman in the night with a bag of poison to do his job". But they accepted his main argument that "This case is not about the right to die; this case is about Jack Kevorkian's right to kill". And neither Kevorkian's defence – that he was acting as a physician and out of the best

interests of his patient – nor the appeals of the victim's family, had any effect. By the time of sentencing, it was not a question of whether he would go to prison, but for how long.

In her statement – as firm and gentle as her conduct of the trial – Judge Cooper was philosophically uncompromising. "You had the audacity to go on national television, show the world what you did and dare the legal system to stop you. Well, sir, consider yourself stopped." But legally she showed some indulgence, inviting him to lodge an appeal and stressing his entitlement to legal aid.

That virtually ensures that Kevorkian will fight another day. When he first faced the prospect of prison, he threatened to starve himself to death. Now, he has let it be known he wants to exhaust the appeals process first. Of his 10-year sentence, he can hardly say he was not warned. At the start of the trial, Judge Cooper enquired solicitously whether he understood that, if convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison. Assuring her, in his characteristically sardonic style, that he did, he quipped: "There's not much of it left."

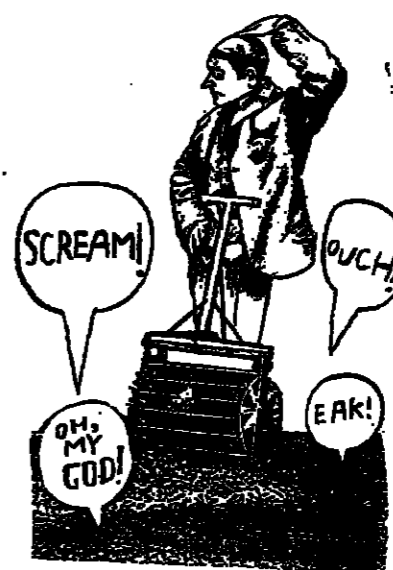
## POETIC LICENCE

MOWING A LAWN

BY MARTIN NEWELL

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL HEATH

Good news for reluctant gardeners: mowing the lawn is bad for the planet – the US government says so. Scientists from the University of Colorado believe that large amounts of pollutants such as methanol, butane and acetaldehyde released by "wounded" grass help to create smog.



Around the lawn you meant to mow  
It pains you to discover  
That all in all, there must be  
Fifty ways to leave your hover  
Across the tufts of couch grass  
The coarse stuff which prevailed  
Where the tennis lawn you hoped for  
Has most manifestly failed.

A standard sight in April,  
Man and mower fight for breath  
On the choked and soaked sargasso  
Which they know as "Atco death".  
A buck, a cough, a rattle  
Then a KLAH, a scream of pain.  
Till loss of power... then nothing  
Mean it's a spanner-time again.

And all this time you wonder  
Why you didn't try at least  
To get stuck into it earlier  
But the wind was in the east  
It was Sunday, there was football  
And a film you couldn't miss  
It could wait another fortnight  
But then Easter. And now this.

The ranunculus, the dandelions  
The plantain and the dock  
Will collude with ryes and fescues  
As you realise to your shock  
That a lawn is made of many things  
And most of them can grow  
For a thirty-three-week season  
At an inch a day or so.

You can't afford a gardener  
And tethered sheep won't do  
Since the onus for the clipping  
And the dipping falls on you  
Which is where we have to leave you  
Crouched and cursing at your mower  
Deep in Philips' screws and spanners  
As the blades refuse to lower.

VINCE VAUGHN ANNE HECHHE AND JOAQUIN PHOENIX

THREE BEST FRIENDS  
ONE IS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION

WOULD YOU LET HIM HANG OR  
SHARE THE PUNISHMENT?

RETURN TO  
PARADISE

YOU HAVE 7 DAYS TO DECIDE.



FROM FRIDAY APRIL 16

THE LAW PAGE WILL APPEAR NEXT TUESDAY

# Brendan Croker is a genius

But will we ever give him the acclaim he deserves? Acknowledged as a world-class songwriter, admired by Eric Clapton and Mark Knopfler, 'Britain's Ry Cooder' speaks to William Whiteside about his eccentric career and his homage to Hank Williams

I first met Brendan Croker three years ago, on a mutual friend's stag night in a small town just outside Mexico City. The latter stages of the evening have mercifully passed into oblivion, though I do remember him steering the groom's father – an OAP with an artificial leg, who had never previously travelled outside the UK – into a vile-looking cantina, with the words: "Did you ever have cocaine, Harry, when you were in the Army?"

Once inside the bar, whose facilities included urinals that had been installed but never plumbed in, our party's arrival excited a lively response from the regulars, who engaged us in friendly conversation for a couple of hours. Then – influenced, perhaps, by the torrent of Victoria beer and mescal – the atmosphere took on a character of mounting hostility, which became unmistakable even to the more exhilarated foreign visitor when our one fluent Spanish speaker began to interpret phrases such as "knife fight".

At the height of our unease a guitar appeared in the way that they do – seemingly by magic – in Elvis Presley musicals. Croker picked it up and sang them Hank Williams's "Your Cheatin' Heart". It was a high-risk strategy, but within the first few bars of the song – which he followed with the Jim Reeves number "He'll Have to Go" – I could sense a second volte-face by our fellow-drinkers, this time from psychotic loathing to a kind of transfixed awe. We then left immediately, our would-be assassins' leader discreetly pressing an unsolicited packet of hashish into the singer's hand on the way out.

"I'm really glad we went in there," Croker told me, out in the street. "Mexico – what a fine country. What a busy people."

First impressions can be misleading, of course, but the incident illustrates a number of Brendan Croker's qualities, not least his convivial nature, his fondness for adventure, and the emotional power of a singing voice that has an affecting combination of roughness and sensitivity.

The term "maverick" might have been invented for Croker. Over the past 15 years, he has produced a number of breathtaking rhythm and blues and country-influenced recordings, and is admired by such figures as Eric Clapton, John Mayall, and his frequent collaborator Mark Knopfler.

"He is a world-class songwriter," says his long-term ally Andy Kershaw, "and a tremendous singer. I have always thought of him as a British Ry Cooder. He has one of those rare voices that sound almost black. If Brendan Croker had surfaced in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, in 1969, instead of Yorkshire in 1979, he'd have made a bigger impact than he has."



'The thing I like about the band,' says Brendan Croker, 'is that it isn't overburdened with ambition'

Neville Elder

I met up with Croker again earlier this week in the bar area of a Pizza Express in central London. The arrival of the 45-year-old, with shaven head, diamond ear-studs and tattooed forearms, seemed to inspire – as it usually does – a certain foreboding among our fellow customers.

He had come to talk about Dying To Sing, his week-long series of concerts at the Twelve Bar Club, Tottenham Court Road, dedicated to the work of dead pop artists. But Croker, who is unrepentantly in any normal sense and appears bored by talking about his own work, was soon reminiscing about the problems currently besetting an impoverished earl who, he says, accompanies him on woodpecker shoots at home in Yorkshire.

"As I told him," Croker boomed at one point, "what do you expect if you turn up outside the door of every woman's door on your estate, demanding droit de seigneur?"

The Twelve Bar project – at which Croker, with a varied supporting cast of musicians, will perform the work of dead stars including Kurt Cobain, Bob Marley and Vivian Stanshall – is a typically idiosyncratic scheme.

"It started from a conversation about the Little Feat singer Lowell George," he told me. "One of my friends said: 'My God, don't you miss him, as a songwriter.' Then we got talking about Rick Nelson."

Nelson, Croker recalled, blew his own plane up, reportedly because he insisted on freebasing cocaine while the plane was landing.

"I'm fascinated by these people," he said, "as they made other people's lives better, often at the expense of their own."

Brendan Croker himself has made several magnificent records – notably *Boat Trips in the Bay* in the late Eighties, and the splendidly titled *Redneck State of*

*the Art* in 1995. Shortly before that, he wrote *What It Takes* for the American country star Wynonna Judd: it sold 4 million copies and earned Croker more than £100,000. Then, just as he had established himself as a Nashville songwriter, collaborating with the legendary Chet Atkins, he apparently lost interest, and set off on an acoustic tour of Belgian prisons. It was a typical career move for the singer who has, I suggested, frustrated many supporters with his perverse indifference to success.

"Well I'm sorry I've been a disappointment to you William," sneered Croker. "I do believe I've had the potential to make big-selling records, but nobody's really known quite what to do with them."

Brendan Croker, who was born in Bradford and studied at the local college of art, was 30 when he started recording seriously. Before that, he had something of a chequered CV.

"I had jobs – I was a bin man and a railway guard," he said, "but I generally got fired for enjoying myself. Yorkshire Electricity Board – that was a good sacking."

He was painting scenery at Leeds Playhouse when he fell in with the virtuosic blues guitarist Steve Phillips, who taught both Croker and Mark Knopfler, and still performs with their occasional group, the Notting Hillbillies.

"One of the things I like about the band," said Croker, "is the way that it isn't overburdened with ambition. One of my favourite songs is the single by Johnny Paycheck, 'Take This Job and Shove It: I Ain't Working Here No More'."

What about his retreat from Nashville, just as things were taking off?

"I loved the innocence of the place at first," he said.

"Before it all turned into a cynical big business. I don't like what they are doing

now, musically or socially, so I don't go there." Boredom, says Brendan Croker's associate Paul Crockford ("manager", in relation to Croker, is probably not a meaningful term) is a recurring problem.

"He gets tired of things," Crockford said. "He has always adhered to the principle of 'don't do what you can do, do what you can't', and that's why he's so interesting. If he were richer," Crockford added, "he'd be eccentric, but he's poor, so he's mad."

Croker's live shows are always compelling, if only for his fondness for involving the audience – often with terrifying prominence – and his refreshingly unpretentious philosophy. Last year at a Notting Hillbillies concert at Ronnie Scott's, Mark Knopfler, looking slightly out of place among his old Leeds pals in a hand-stitched grey silk shirt, introduced a number as: "One of my songs that just about everybody's recorded."

"OK," said a gruff Yorkshire voice at his elbow, "who's done it then? Dame Thora Hird? Archbishop Tutu?"

On stage or not, Croker is a man who knows no sense of shame.

"One of the worst moments of my life," says the journalist Mark Ellen, "was with Brendan Croker in a London pub, packed with city traders in red braces. He had a guitar case with him, and he said: 'What's your favourite Woody Guthrie song?' I told him 'Grand Coolidge Rag'. He got to his feet, shuffled these hundred bankers to silence, turned to me and bellowed: 'Sing it man. Sing it now.'"

The stage backdrop at the Twelve Bar Club, Croker told me, will consist of Jon Langford's portrait of Hank Williams, pierced with arrows, in the pose of the martyred Saint Sebastian.

"I do slightly regret," said Croker, "that I can't do the odd song by people who are still alive. I don't wish any ill on anybody," he added. "That said, I am aware that a rock star's life is an uncertain business, and pavements can be slippery when wet. Late-comers will not be ruled out."

In the few months, Croker's entire back catalogue will be reissued, together with a "best of" compilation. Was he planning a new album, given that his last CD, *Three Chord Love Songs*, came out a couple of years ago?

"I've started to feel I've made too many records," he told me. "The next one I make, I want to die for every line I write."

His immediate plans after the London shows, he told me, are to spend some time in Leeds looking after his two carthorses.

"I think I like carthorses," he said, "because they don't do anything they don't want to do. That," Croker added, "is a good example for anyone."

Brendan Croker is playing the Twelve Bar Club, London. Booking: 0171-323 3003

## Sweetness but too much lightness

DESPITE THE fact that it flopped at its 1956 premiere, in the history of musicals there has scarcely been a bolder, wittier or more majestically operatic score than Leonard Bernstein's for his unwieldy *Candide*.

For that reason alone, everyone from Lillian Hellman to John Wells and Jonathan Miller by way of Dorothy Parker and Stephen Sondheim (and plenty more) has tried to turn this extravagant but famously intractable musical dramatisation of Voltaire into viable theatre.

A significant body of opinion believes that the show is best realised on disc.

Thus we can only applaud the spirit of endeavour behind the decision to try to come up with a new theatrical solution to the problem in the shape of yet another version, this time for the National Theatre, with a "new" book, written and directed by John Caird, assisted by Trevor Nunn.

Bernstein recorded his score with a heavy-duty operatic cast and the London Sym-

**MUSICAL**  
**CANDIDE**  
OLIVIER  
NATIONAL THEATRE  
LONDON

phony Orchestra, so when the National's thin-sounding 14-piece band strikes up the famous overture your spirits sink. Musically, matters improve significantly but even at the start there's a bonus in the dominating presence of Simon Russell Beale as the narrator, Voltaire. Caught in the spotlight in the centre of the vast, bare Olivier stage, he beady-eyeballs the entire audience with invincible imperiousness.

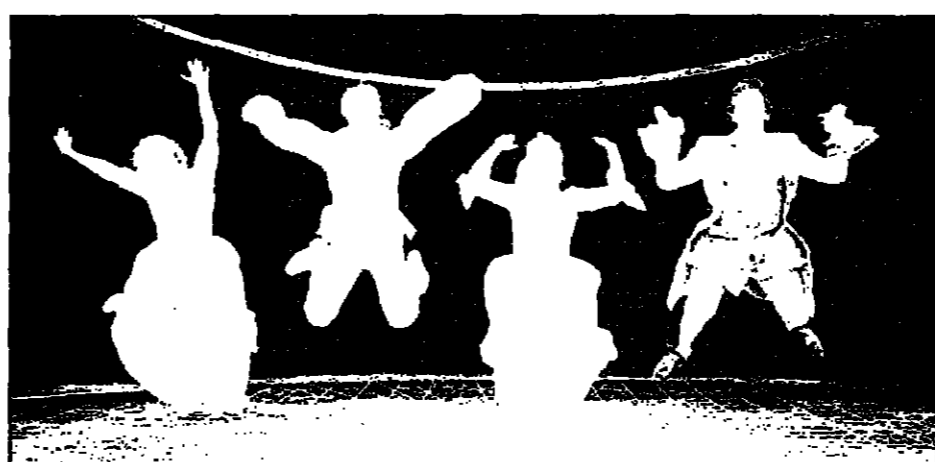
Voltaire now has a larger slice of the action, guiding you through *Candide*'s labyrinthine physical and philosophical journey from naive optimism to true enlightenment, and whenever Russell Beale is in charge you feel unusually connected to the action. But even the strength of this new thread cannot bind the show together into a satisfying whole.

John Napier's spare de-

signs – little more than a cunningly deployed set of packing cases – throw the focus on to the actors. The National's ensemble company uses *Nicholas Nickleby*-style storytelling techniques to whip up different atmospheres in locations across Europe, from drowning at sea to a grand ball in Venice, with gusts of smoke to enhance Paul Pyant's lighting.

Beverley Klein brings the house down as the ill-used Old Lady. She grabs her big scene where she lists suffering every indignity known to womankind – she's been left with one buttock (don't ask) – with tremendously engaging zest, before going one further by launching into a splendidly assured and terrifically funny rendition of "I Am Easily Assimilated". Similarly, Simon Day's ludicrously tall and pompous Maximilian seizes his comedy with delicious aplomb.

Yet the musical and dramatic power of these performances – and that of Denis Quilley as Martin, who refuses to believe in the goodness of mankind – also highlights the



Out of step: music and drama in 'Candide' rarely pull together

Geraint Lewis

fundamental weakness. Not for nothing is this known as Bernstein's *Candide*. Good acting is not enough. The overall feeling generated is that of a very long story with an outstanding, but separate, score. The approach is typified by Daniel Evans as a nicely boyish Candide.

His sweet voice is simply too light to carry the emotional intensity of the music. Similarly,

Peter Darling's choreography is often imaginative but you keep wishing it would lift the temperature to another level to drive the musical motor.

All the stops are pulled out for the hair-raising choral finale, but by then it's too late. Caird's version is more faithful to Voltaire's ideas and has impressive clarity, but the plodding rhythm of his production means that it fails to take fire.

Ultimately, it's caught between stonks. In terms of music and its dramatic sincerity, *Candide* is now a chamber piece. But stranded in the Olivier theatre, the music deflates. It would make for economic madness, but I wonder what it would be like in the Cottesloe?

DAVID BENEDICT

In rep, National Theatre 10171-353 3000

## T'ai chi and dried rice

A THIN stream of rice cascades continuously on to a lone man and looks like a dry variant of water torture. I worried that it might eventually bore a hole in his shiny bald head but he appears impervious, standing absolutely still for 80 minutes. He must be a Buddhist monk, with his robes and superhuman control. He gets my vote as star number one in Cloud Gate Dance Theatre's *Songs of the Wanderers*. And star number two is the rice – more than three tons of it, cleaned, dried, dyed gold and then dried again. During the performance it is poured, scooped, flung, and shaped in the hills and ridges of a desolate landscape.

Fourteen pilgrims, men and women, are embarked on a spiritual journey in which they agonise and flagellate themselves horribly, so that the monk's immobile serenity definitely appears as the goal they need to attain. They are prey to tumultuous distress, causing one woman to convulse on the ground and a man to fall in a mound of rice – the quagmire of his own misery. But in between this hyperactivity, the movement is so slow it almost seems to float, figures advancing imperceptibly as if frightened to disturb the surrounding air.

Call me suspicious, but the slowness lends an air of importance to what strikes me as a fairly basic premise and its rapid, repetitive elaboration. The piece, which was made five years ago, apparently takes inspiration from that boring cult book of the Sixties, Herman Hesse's oriental homily, *Siddhartha*, as well as drawing on religious thinking and practices of the East.

The cast apparently use t'ai

**DANCE**  
**CLOUD GATE DANCE**  
THEATRE  
SADLER'S WELLS  
LONDON

chi and meditation as their warm-up before going on stage. Their choreographer and director, Lin Hwai-min, has a broad background, embracing both American and oriental dance. He founded the company in 1973 as Taiwan's first contemporary dance company; but he gave it the name, Cloud Gate, of a 5,000-year-old ritual dance.

In fact, any Western influence seems invisible in the staging of this piece, except for a sound accompaniment of Georgian folk songs, elegiac male solo voices backed by the soft hum of a chorus. The visual effects are undeniably stunning. The dancers carry pilgrim's sticks and compose group pictures as beautiful as a Chinese scroll painting. The careful lighting carves the space with evocative dusks and filtered rays; the procession of hand-held flames is an effective moment; the sudden thumping deluges of rice had me almost jumping out of my seat.

At certain fall, it is unclear whether pilgrims find peace. But a resolution of sorts comes afterwards, when the house lights are up. A man with a hoe spends 10 minutes ritualistically raking a spiral pattern in the rice, now covering the whole stage surface. He is star number three of the evening. And if you can sit and ignore the chattering people around you, you may perhaps achieve the focused calm of the Buddhist monk.

NADINE MEISNER

## Nice banter, shame about the songs

THE FIRST couple of songs in Damon Gough, aka Badly Drawn Boy's set were endearingly inept. Having decided to perform all the acoustic tracks first, he sat down with his guitar and began a song to which he couldn't remember the words, inviting us to fill in the gaps by posting lyrics to his website. Finally, Gough was forced to admit "I don't know how to finish this", and came to a stuttering halt. He said he couldn't remember the title of the second song. No matter. It only lasted 20 seconds. "You

still here?" he asked cheerfully after a shambling third number.

If Gough's musical performance was uneven, he had his between-songs banter off pat. He encouraged heckling, announcing: "I'm a simple man with simple needs and a huge talent. Now cheer up and enjoy yourselves."

Oddly enough, it was the bumbling nature of Gough's live set that prompted an A&R scramble and got him a deal with XL records, home to the Prodigy, even James Lavelle, the Mo Wax boss who prides

**POP**  
**BADLY DRAWN BOY**  
IMPROV THEATRE  
LONDON

himself on being able to spot new talent, repositioned Gough for last year's *Uncle* project alongside Radiohead's Thom Yorke and The Verve's Richard Ashcroft. But Gough has always been impervious to the storm surrounding his talents. Badly Drawn Boy's moniker may denote someone a little rough around the edges,

but it scandalously understates his chaotic nature.

There was a protracted silence while Gough tried to figure out how to switch on his keyboards. The audience, by now showing signs of restlessness, chattered loudly among themselves. "Stop that noise," scolded Gough, "I've a good mind to come over and tan your arses." Another silence followed as he frantically searched for his set list.

The idea that, after all these months, Gough still isn't familiar with his own material

doesn't ring true. A likelier story is that he is trading on the cock-handed credentials that won him his deal in the first place. This wasn't just anti-pop, it was anti-performance. And the joke was as much on us as it was on his investors. "Are you going to laugh at everything I say?" he inquired, to more nervous titters.

Yes, it appeared, we were. The show wasn't without its magical moments. Gough's lo-fi inventiveness came to the fore as he performed songs from his three EPs. Haphazard

tinkering on keyboards and harmonica echoed the sparkling kookiness of Money Mark, though his maudlin acoustic numbers revealed a more melancholy side.

But, for some, the catastrophic nature of Gough's set proved too much. As the crowd thinned, you realised that though this performance was unique, it showed scant regard for paying punters. As a statement it was one of the best shows of the year, but musically it was by far the worst.

PIONA STURGES

## FILM

You've got  
to laugh

**T**he secret of Happiness? It's that everybody's got secrets. Todd Solondz's astonishingly tragicomic comedy pokes around various bedrooms and hallways of New Jersey, listening in on the hilarious, heart-rending and occasionally horrifying business that passes for suburban private life.

The face which a Solondz character offers to the world usually gives no indication of the turbulence within. A man who boasts to a woman at dinner that he's "champagne" (he actually uses the word) goes home and kills himself. A husband and father of three turns out to be a child molester. A computer analyst spends nights making sweetly obscene phone-calls. If New Jersey is anything to go by, then Thoreau was right: the mass of men really do lead lives of quiet desperation.

Solondz investigated similar levels of anxiety and alienation in his 1995 feature *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, a coming-of-age picture which portrayed adolescence as a more or less continual nightmare. *Happiness* is a more ambitious ensemble piece, at whose centre is a trio of sisters. Joy Jordan (Jane Adams) is a sensitive 30-year-old struggling with her career and hoping to break through as a Joni Mitchell-type singer-songwriter. In the meantime she teaches at a language school and searches longingly for a boyfriend. Helen (Lara Flynn

## THE BIG PICTURE



ANTHONY QUINN

**HAPPINESS (18)**  
DIRECTOR: TODD SOLONDZ  
STARRING: JANE ADAMS,  
CYNTHIA STEVENSON, LARA  
FLYNN BOYLE, DYLAN BAKER  
140 MINUTES

Boyle) is a vacuously beautiful writer striving to hide her low self-esteem (even though her literary friends include a certain "Salman" who rings from London). Trish (Cynthia Stevenson) is the perky housewife, and the most interesting of the three because she has deluded herself into happiness. Her way of maintaining the illusion is to patronise Joy. "Just because you've hit 30 doesn't mean you can't be fresh any more," she tells her with poisonous solicitude.

Orbiting this core is a host of characters whose perversions and neuroses hammer home the irony of the film's title: these people aren't so much in pursuit of happiness as in terrified flight from loneliness. Take the Jordan sisters' parents, Lemmy

and Mona (Ben Gazzara and Louise Lasser); after 40 years together he wants to separate, only he can't summon much enthusiasm for the woman he's supposed to be leaving her for. Convinced of his own boringness, Allen (Philip Seymour Hoffman) can only connect with the beautiful woman down the hall by telephone - anonymously, and with his trousers unzipped. He in turn is pestered by his needy neighbour Kristina (Camryn Manheim), whose idea of a chat-up line is to tell him about the recent murder of their doorman. If it weren't so tragic, you'd double up laughing.

Solondz tends to work in duologues, monitoring conversation for its helpless pitfalls and unthinking cruelties. It's the kind of deadpan observation that Neil LaBute attempted in *Your Friends and Neighbours*, but that failed because he fell in love with the sound of his own cynicism. Solondz has a greater range and a subtler discrimination, and his characters, for all their inadequacies, have the authentic stamp of human beings.

This is most poignantly brought to bear in his portrayal of Trish's husband, Bill (Dylan Baker), an apparently regular guy who dreams of murder and contrives to rape his 11-year-old son's sleepover friend. Solondz is handling inflammatory stuff here, but he never stoops to titillation or pats himself on the back for broaching a taboo subject. Instead, he goes as far as he possibly can to humanize perversion:



Lara Flynn Boyle and Jane Adams: 'Happiness' would be scarcely watchable without the stupendous efforts of the cast

some of the film's most thoughtful (and most excruciating) moments occur between Bill and his son, who is himself worried by his own inchoate sexuality. The way in which these scenes sway between tenderness and sick farce is characteristic of Solondz's audacious balancing act. He's a poet of embarrassment.

Sex is, of course, the animating principle behind *Happiness*, whether as personal therapy or party spoiler. It's a *Fury* driving these men and women to madness, or despair, or both. In a typically honest exchange, one character says: "Women are pathetic gossips and men are just..." "Pathetic?" suggests her partner. On that touching note of pillow talk they proceed to

make love. There is an almost Larkin-esque morbidity in the film's treatment of sexual isolation. I kept thinking of his lines from "Talking in Bed": "It becomes still more difficult to find/ Words at once true and kind/ Or not untrue and not unkind." It's certainly difficult for this lot. Even when somebody gets a break here, you're braced for an unpleasant pay-off - which duly arrives.

Indeed, the film would be scarcely watchable, let alone enjoyable, without the stupendous efforts of its cast. Top of the heap for bravery is Dylan Baker, who manages something I never expected to see in American cinema: the sympathetic portrayal of a paedophile. His straight-arrow Kennedy-era look serves to make him even more

disturbing. If this were any other movie he'd walk off with it, but there's an even better performance by Philip Seymour Hoffman as the piteous Allen. Hoffman has already impressed as the gay gofer in *Boogie Nights* and the obsequious assistant of *The Big Lebowski*; he even escaped with dignity intact from the unspeakable *Patch Adams*, and that's quite something. Here, his pudgy, furtive crank caller says more about solitariness and sexual failure than the last 10 years of Woody Allen movies put together. Just to watch him sucking Coke through a straw as he listens to a ghoulish confession of murder is a pleasure unrivalled by any movie this year. Hoffman is already a great actor, so look out for him.

Look out also for terrific work by Cynthia Stevenson (she played Tim Robbins' discarded girlfriend in *The Player*), Louise Lasser, Camryn Manheim and Jared Harris. It's rare to have an ensemble as strong as this, and rarer still for it to be paired with a fine script. Even the *Jordan's dog* gets a stand-out scene at the close.

*Happiness* isn't an easy experience to digest. It will disquiet and affront, and will probably cause arguments between close friends. But anyone interested in a young talent finding his voice and saying something real about social and sexual deviancy should go and see it.

Todd Solondz is interviewed on page 12

## ALSO SHOWING

AN IDEAL HUSBAND OLIVER PARKER (PG) ■ RETURN TO PARADISE JOSEPH RUBEN (15) ■ PROMETHEUS TONY HARRISON (15) ■ ACTRESSES VENTURA PONS (12)

OSCAR WILDE'S Lord Goring strolls through the high society of 1890s London with an air of impeccable ennui and the finest buttonhole in town, mocking the stuffiness of his world, and his own place within it. He does nothing - brilliantly. It's understandable, then, that director Oliver Parker should make Lord Goring the centre of his film adaptation of *An Ideal Husband*, and that Rupert Everett should play him.

The film also has topicality on its side, being the story of a promising political career threatened by sleaze. Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) is a rising star in Parliament with a reputation for moral probity, which no one admires more keenly than his beautiful wife Gertrude (Cate Blanchett). Enter rapacious blackmailers Mrs Cheveley (Julianne Moore) with evidence of a financial indiscretion in Chiltern's past. Her proposition is simple: either he supports a

fraudulent canal project in the House or else she will expose his guilty past. In desperation Chiltern turns to the one man who can outwit this ruthless schemer: Lord Goring.

All this should be as comfortable as a favourite armchair, yet I found myself fidgeting throughout. Given that an adapter has Wilde's own lines to work from, it would seem almost impossible to make *An Ideal Husband* dull - yet Oliver Parker has somehow contrived to. While the play has to be edited for screen purposes, I was amazed and then irritated by how much Parker had changed, or merely ignored. The showdown between Lord Goring and Mrs Cheveley, for example, which should be all rapier thrusts and parries, is slowed into a weedy romantic duet. What's more, the crucial plot device - a diamond bracelet which allows Goring to checkmate his opponent - has been dropped altogether so that Mrs



Minnie Driver in 'An Ideal Husband'

Cheveley, a study in conniving malice, can be softened into a playful adventuress.

The Wildean spark is also painfully absent in most of the performances. Everett passes muster, even if he doesn't catch the insouciance of "the idliest man in London" - not quite trivial enough, as Goring himself might put it. Julianne Moore does little more than flash her teeth, while Minnie Driver gives

an absurdly anachronistic performance as Goring's love match. She could learn from the composure of Cate Blanchett, who makes something unexpectedly interesting of her ball-breaker-in-crinoline role.

*Fin-de-siècle* London has been lovingly recreated, naturally, and the torrid crimson and card-room greens of the decor look fantastic. But when the furniture looks livelier than

the acting, you know a production is in trouble.

Joseph Ruben has never recaptured the shocking vitality of his 1987 thriller *The Stepfather*, but he handles the ethical drama of *Return to Paradise* with journeyman competence. Two years after a trio of American college boys parted through a dope'n'sex holiday in Malaysia, two of them - Sheriff (Vince Vaughn) and Tony (David Conrad) - are sought out in New York by elfin attorney Beth (Anne Heche). She has news for them: their gently idealistic friend Lewis (Joaquin Phoenix) was arrested after their departure for sole possession of the drug stash all three of them shared. Having languished in prison ever since, he's sentenced to be hanged at the end of the week unless his two friends return to Penang and share out the six years' imprisonment. In a word, oo-er.

The film skilfully involves us in this bowel-loosening dilemma.

How noble would you be if saving a friend's life entailed three years in a brutal foreign nick? Just think of the food, the cold, the squalor - and that's before you even start considering all those missed episodes of *Frasier*. Vaughn and Heche argue it out for over an hour; perhaps a bit much given that the film already tips us the wink in its title, but you stay with the vacillations of the two pals none the less. I guess the moral of the story is don't get caught with hash in a country like Malaysia, where even the "never inhaled" plea falls on deaf ears.

Tony Harrison's film poem *Prometheus* is both an earnest elegy to the Yorkshire miners doomed during the Eighties, and a broader reckoning on the state of post-war Europe. It's also, I'm afraid, a purgatorial couple of hours. Based on the Greek myth of the Titan who stole fire from the gods, it features a bizarre central performance by Michael Feast, clad in

a tight silvery jumpsuit that's meant to be the costume of Hermes but actually makes him look like one of The Glitter Band. I was on the verge of leaving several times, but something about its total lack of cinematic art kept me pinned to my seat.

*Actresses* is a pretty leaden inquiry into stage acting. A tyro drama student (Merce Pons) researches the role of Iphigenia by interviewing three grandes dames of the Catalan theatre who all studied

under the late, great Empar Ribera. Along the way we get interminable passages of reminiscence and speculation about the glorious gift of the stage - ironically, the one thing that the film never actually provides is drama. I don't know if the Catalans have a word for luvvie, but they sure as hell have the breed.

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# Mild at heart

Has the cliché come true again? Has age mellowed the sometime angry rebel Nicolas Cage? Perhaps. But he's still dangerous to interview. By Shane Danielsen

So there's Nicolas Cage. With his sad eyes and his sleepy demeanour and his voice so even, so unmodulated by excitement or surprise, that it threatens at times to edge into the subliminal. Rarely has the distance between on-screen creation and off-screen reality seemed quite so pronounced.

"People tend to think I'm sad," he draws. "Like I'm some kind of miserable bastard - I guess because of the way my face is, or the way I talk. But I'm not. I'm a happy guy. Really." He could almost be reading a menu. Suddenly he frowns: "At least, until someone makes me unhappy."

The interviewer, suitably forewarned, puts on a cheerful face. He's right, though: there are two Nicolas Cages. One is familiar enough - the scenery-chewing, hyper-kinetic star of *Con Air* and *The Rock* - and when he's good, in this incarnation, he's little short of phenomenal, one of the screen's great, larger-than-life characters.

Often, though, it's a question of direction: teamed with John Woo for *Face/Off*, or with the Coen Brothers for *Raising Arizona*, he achieved a kind of vivid mania, became his own Tex Avery cartoon. When he's bad, however - the first 15 minutes of *Snake Eyes*, for example, or the long-forgotten *Zandalee* - he can be little short of unbearable.

And then there's his quieter, more contemplative side - the actor rather than the performer. Occasionally this Nic Cage finds his way on to the screen, and he too can be either compelling or disastrous. He managed to invest *Leaving Las Vegas* with a tragic grandeur, gave the pop psychology of *Birdy* a heart, yet in *City of Angels* - that woolly-headed remake of Wim Wenders' ravishing *Wings of Desire* - his supposed sensitivity came off as mere solipsism; as an angel, he seemed more annoying than celestial.

He delivers a similarly muffled performance in his latest release, *8MM* - in which he plays a private detective trying to find the makers of a snuff movie. He is a decent man drawn by small stages into the grubby underworld of hard-core porn, and into his own eventual corruption.

It's a strong premise, albeit reminiscent of Paul Schrader's *Hardcore*; however, given that its director, Joel Schumacher, was responsible for the camp farago that was *Batman & Robin*, one cannot be altogether surprised that *8MM* is not a

particularly good or memorable film. This is news to Cage, however, who seems utterly sincere when he says: "I think this movie, and *Leaving Las Vegas*, were the two that have pushed me hardest, that really took me to my limits. I went further this time, certainly in terms of the violent aspect of my personality, than I've ever gone before."

Certainly it's a project with which, at some deep interior level, he identifies. By his own admission, he feels oddly protective of the film - nervous, almost, that it be properly understood. A damning *Variety* review, published the day after its premiere at the Berlin Film Festival, so incensed him that he cut short his visit and returned to Los Angeles. Where, unfortunately, he was met by a string of American critiques that made the trade paper's seem tame by comparison.

You think he'd be tougher-skinned. No

pens all the time, sure. But I doubt very much that it'll happen to me. I don't think anyone could look at *8MM*, for example, and suggest that I was making safer films. I mean, yes. I want the community to be a safe place for my kids, and yes, I like the idea of a cosy domestic life. All of that is very appealing. But that's where it ends. With my work, it's going to be just as dangerous and confronting as it ever was."

His role in *8MM* is a complex one. At times, his exact motivation is unclear. As such, it attests to his preference for "characters that force me to really deeply analyse various aspects of the human psyche, both positive and negative". A noble ambition. Yet so many of his on-screen roles have involved extreme characterisations that you have to wonder: how will audiences respond to this more interior Nicolas Cage?

*'People think I'm sad. But I'm not. I'm a happy guy. At least, until someone makes me unhappy'*

fragile newcomer, he started acting in his late teens. By day he auditioned, read, listened compulsively to music; nights, he worked serving popcorn at LA's Fairfax theatre. A nephew of Francis Ford Coppola, he also changed his name, taking his *nom de travail* from Marvel Comics superhero Luke Cage, Power Man.

"I was, without going into too much detail, a pretty wild guy. Angry, unfocused. I had a lot of rebellious energy and I didn't really have any idea where I was heading in my life. All I knew was, that energy had to go somewhere and, even though at the time I was really heavily into punk rock, I knew that I wanted it to go somewhere productive, not destructive."

Now 35, he admits to having mellowed somewhat in recent years: "Yeah, it's true. At the risk of sounding like a bore, I feel pretty calm these days. I mean, I'm a father now, I have a great relationship [with Patricia Arquette, another of Hollywood's most affectless voices]. Generally speaking, I enjoy my work. I no longer feel any need to be destructive."

I suggest his new-found peace might be simply part of getting older: just another example of a young firebrand mellowing into comfortable middle age, losing a little of their edge. Call it the Robin Williams syndrome.

At this, Cage half-smiles. "That hap-

Well, that's a good question. It's actually because for a long while I was so flamboyant, and I was acting in much more of a grand style, that I became really intrigued by the possibility of expressing myself in this other, more contained manner."

He pauses, considering his words. "I guess what I'm trying to say is I want to do a little of everything, and experience whatever range I have. I've done the larger-than-life stuff, I've been there. And I've set up this potential for risk, so hopefully people won't be too alienated by whatever I choose to do next."

"Next", as it happens, is *Bringing Out the Dead*, about an existential crisis faced by a New York paramedic, which he's just finished shooting for director Martin Scorsese. He describes it as being "a return to *Taxi Driver* territory, what with Paul Schrader writing the script and all". That should be bleak, I say. Cage looks unimpressed. "Whereas *Taxi Driver* was about going into the darkness, confronting your demons and losing yourself in the process, this one is much more about coming out into the light. It's more a spiritual journey than anything."

After that, he's set to re-team with producer Jerry Bruckheimer for yet another action flick, *Gone in 60 Seconds*, a remake of the 1973 smash-'em-up about

a car thief with a penchant for destruction, once described in *Time Out* as "a rousing exercise in auto-snuff".

Somehow, though, it can't help but seem a cop-out. If, as he claims, the real challenge now is to act, rather than to perform - to command a film, rather than simply to dominate it - then his decision to make another mindless action flick seems faintly perverse, a comprehensive waste of time and talent. Why bother?

The suggestion seems to irritate him. He frowns, his stare narrowing. "Look," he says slowly, "it's just a big, dumb popcorn movie. Pure escapism. And sure, critics might not appreciate that, but I feel like I'm ready for it now. I've just done two very intense, very dark character studies in a row, and now I just want to enjoy myself. And I think I'm allowed to do that."

Oh dear, I've made him unhappy. "Fundamentally," he continues, still prepared to try to convert me. "I think a good performance has a kind of resonance about it, a truth or honesty or whatever - and that holds true whether it's a comedy or a drama, or some big-budget action movie. Working within a particular genre doesn't stop you from trying to do interesting work. Often it's what you can do within the boundaries of that style - how you can subvert it a little, or what you can bring to it - that makes for something really powerful."

He's sticking to his story. I put on my happy face and leave.

*'8MM' is released on 23 April*



## VIDEO ROUND-UP



**Velvet Goldmine (15)**  
to rent from Monday

WHERE BETTER for Todd Haynes to start his intoxicating love letter to the icons of glam rock than with

flying saucers and Oscar Wilde? Dandies from outer space indeed they were and it's not hard to see which stars lie behind Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), a British glam star, and his

tormented American collaborator Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor). At the height of his fame, Slade stages the fake assassination of both himself and his musical alter ego, Maxwell Demon, unwittingly bringing about his own downfall.

Ten years later, a journalist, Arthur Stuart (Christian Bale), himself weaned on glam rock's illusory promise of sexual reinvention, is dispatched to discover whatever became of Brian Slade.

Told in exhilarating flashback, the film's touchstone is the ethos of glam itself. While Slade himself remains a largely anonymous character, Stuart's conversations with Slade's first manager and wife, as well as his own recollections, coalesce into a kaleidoscopic, fragmented portrait of Slade's conflicting persona. The picture of the social and cultural hangover of the early Eighties is a little ham-fisted, but Haynes throws himself headlong into a virtuoso recreation of glam rock's gaudy, outrageous allure.

MIKE HIGGINS



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# It's my film and I'll cry if I want to

Todd Solondz, director of *Happiness*, says success hasn't changed him. He was miserable before. He still is. By Xan Brooks

Once Todd Solondz had completed his script for *Happiness*, he changed his phone number and went ex-directory. He had visions of right-wing extremists ringing up in the wee small hours, fantasised about letter bombs being pushed through his door ("little wrapped gifts in juvenile handwriting"). When Solondz's British publicists wanted to fly him over to promote the film, he at first resisted. Eventually tempted onto Concorde, he spent the whole three-hour flight fretting that the plane was about to crash. On the pallid, skinny face of it, Todd Solondz is not the bravest of men.

How then to square the film-maker with his film? Because whether you love it or hate it, *Happiness* is undeniably a work of tremendous courage: a comedy that touches on child abuse; a multi-strand drama in which its biggest monster (Dylan Baker's clean-cut paedophile) is also arguably its most decent and human inhabitant.

Stepping semi-stunned from the cinema, I reckoned *Happiness* to be a film pretty much without precedent. Solondz, though, reels off a casual list of influences. *Happiness*'s suburban darkness comes coloured by Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt*. Its humane treatment of a sociopathic central character was prompted by Capote's true-crime novel *In Cold Blood*. "And anyway," he adds, "I'm not the first to put a paedophile in a movie. I mean, my God, just go back to Fritz Lang's *M*."

"Or Kubrick's *Lolita*," I suggest. "No, not that one," says Solondz quickly. "I love the Kubrick movie but it is not about a paedophile because Sue Lyon is not a child. You can see that kind of arrangement every day on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. No one's getting arrested for that."

We are ensconced in an office five floors above the hubbub of Soho. Solondz is standing upright, moving gingerly from right foot to left, because he has sciatica and his back

hurts when he's sitting down. He certainly has the bearing of a man prone to ailments: sniffles and sufferings either real or imagined. In the flesh, Solondz calls to mind the sort of seven-stone weakling you rarely see outside of a Gary Larson cartoon. His hair is a thinning shock aboard a narrow skull. His froggy eyes are reduced to raisins by the distorting glass of his NHS-style specs. A grandpa's cardigan hangs loosely over sloping shoulders.

Solondz's voice is too, is classic geek-speak: a sort of meandering cat's yowl that idles into a neutral undertone ("neeargh") as he gropes for the appropriate word. It's like listening to radio static over dead air. Ask him how he'd argue with those who find *Happiness* sick or amoral, and he starts

*'I wish I liked film-making more. I don't like the stress. I can imagine just dropping out'*

out philosophical then loses the thread.

"People see what they want to see. You can't argue with someone's perceptions. If I'm in this room and I say it's really hot and you say it's really cold, y'know, there's no point in arguing. Y'know... (neeargh)... I think... (neeargh)... That's not a good analogy... (neeargh)... I don't know if I would argue. I'd just say they're wrong."

What complicates *Happiness* is the comedy. It is often hugely funny and yet the laughter it induces is guilty, shameful. Those who have taken against the film reckon that this is its undoing; that it both invites us to sneer at its beat-up, broken characters and (more crucially) plays its more troubling elements as knee-jerk shock tactics.

Solondz is aware of such responses. Since touting *Happiness* on the festival circuit, he feels he has clocked the

entire spectrum of audience reactions.

"Some people laugh and feel guilty. Some laugh just because they think it's funny. Some people don't find it funny and still really like it. I'm not saying there's anything wrong with any of those responses. But I think that if one is laughing out of a sense of superiority - 'Oh, look, what a bunch of freaks' - then I will have failed for that audience. *Happiness* is funny," he stresses, "but it's not a joke."

In the meantime, I'm still puzzling Solondz out: trying to figure how this frail creature with his gripes, neuroses and lugubrious wit came up with a picture that takes so many risks and takes them so confidently. Is the image a pose? Or are there some clues in the Solondz past that point to genuine rigour and resilience?

Solondz is pushing 40 but looks younger. The general assumption is that *Happiness* is the New Jersey-born director's second picture (following his school-bullying comedy *Welcome to the Dollhouse*). In fact it isn't. Ten years ago, fresh out of film school, Solondz signed a lucrative three-picture deal with Twentieth Century Fox. A dream come true. Except that things went awry when his debut picture - the aptly titled *Fear, Anxiety and Depression* - was first recut and then disowned by the studio bosses.

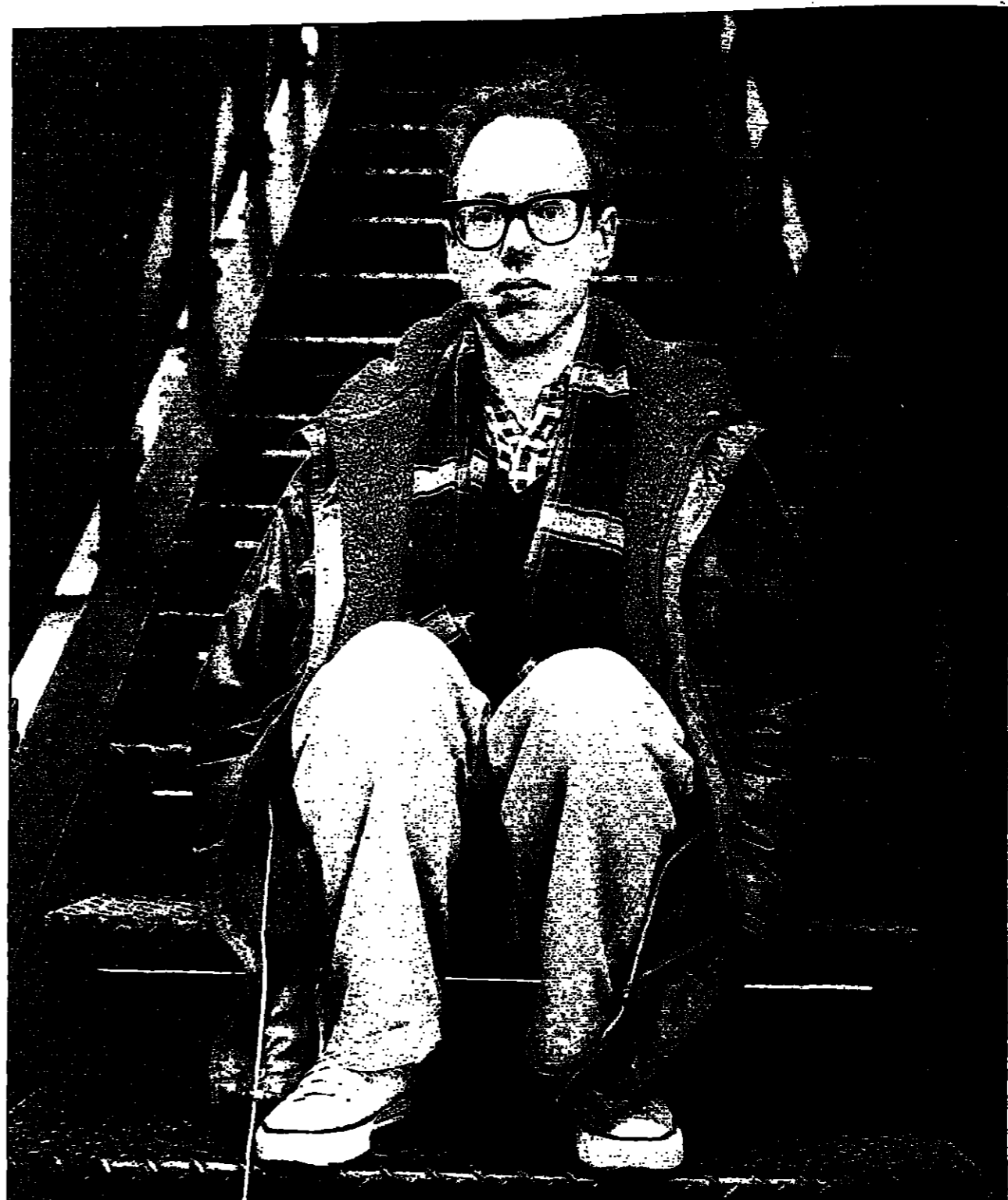
Glancing through Solondz' official bio, I notice that while his student shorts are listed by name, this first feature has been expunged from the records.

"Why would I mention something like that?" Solondz howls. "It was a painful period in my life. I don't need to reminisce about my open sores. I still need more time."

So he hated the film too? "We all hated it. That was the only thing we agreed on."

At the time, Solondz thought he'd blown his chance. He left the business, took a job teaching English as a second language and assumed that was that. Then came *Welcome to the Dollhouse* (which won the Grand Jury Award at Sundance) and he was right back in the fray.

All of which makes it tempting to frame



Todd Solondz: 'I don't mention my first film. I don't need to reminisce about my open sores.'

Neelke Elder

Solondz's story as a classic redemption: a triumph over disaster; the bullied kid who gets even. The problem appears solved.

Except that Solondz - awkward as ever - is having none of it. He loved his teaching gig, he says, and regards film-making as a dreadful business.

"I think most film-makers love what they do, and I wish I loved it more. I really do. But I don't like the stress. I don't. I can imagine just dropping out."

Solondz claims he was never happier

than during his years in the doldrums. Under questioning, though, he clarifies this.

"It was a time in my life when I was without ambition, and once you have ambition you're prone to be more miserable because you have expectations and hopes that are sure to be dashed. You're setting yourself up for disappointment."

He prods his glasses further up his nose and allows a chink of sunlight to filter through. "Now there are great things obviously. The good thing about success is

that you don't have to dream about it any more. I mean, it hasn't changed me - I still complain and whine all the time, it's just less becoming because there's no reason for it. For example, I say: 'Urgh, I don't wanna go to London.' But I can't complain about that. Todd Solondz downshifts to neutral ("neeargh"), groping toward a note of blissed-out, contented optimism. It is not, he concedes finally, "such a terrible life."

*'Happiness' is reviewed on page 10*

## RUSHES

WHAT WAS claimed to be an early draft of the script to Stanley Kubrick's last film *Eyes Wide Shut* surfaced last week on the Internet, when it was auctioned off to punters for a jaw-dropping \$255. ("Rushes" was intrigued enough by the possibility of a printed sneak preview to stay in the bidding until the price hit \$200.) The Los Angeles-

based seller claimed to have acquired the script through a friend who worked on the production. The mystery over the script's authenticity deepened after the auction when an unknown third party contacted the website through which the script was sold, saying the sale was "a breach of their intellectual property rights".

Bizarrely, however, Warner Brothers, who own the film, say it wasn't them. A Warner's spokesman said that as far as the company was concerned, scripts for the film were not for sale anywhere. He added: "The Internet ranks some way behind tea leaf reading as a guide to the truth."

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**THE THURSDAY REVIEW**  
The Independent 15 April 1999

[illegible]

**7:00 Children's BBC:** Noddy in Toyland (t) (92809), 230  
The Buns Myster (t) (981908), 7:45 Blue Peter (t) (9)  
(982722), 8:40 Dazzleand and Mattley (98723), 8:44-  
Peggy Dot Short (945552), 8:50 Wishing (t) (34517)  
8:50 The Marmite (t) (736626), 9:25 The Pui  
Shers Show (t) (797863), 9:50 Jet to Stories (t)  
(740319), 10:00 Teletubbies (t) (5) (98739).

**ITV Carlton**

**6.30 GMTV** (2802344).

**9.25 Trivia** (1) (2855515) **10.30 The Morning Show** (2855757) **11.20 Top Shot** (2824358) **11.45 Lunchtime News** (2855515) **12.20 The Big Breakfast** (1) (2856252) **1.25 The Today** (1) (2856252) **1.45 The Big Breakfast** (2) (2856252) **2.10 The Big Breakfast** (3) (1) (2856252) **2.40 The Big Breakfast** (4) (1) (2856252) **3.10 The Big Breakfast** (5) (1) (2856252) **3.40 The Big Breakfast** (6) (1) (2856252).

**3.50 ITV News Headlines** (1) (2715047).

**3.50 Children's ITV** (2856252) **4.25 The Big Breakfast** (7) (1) (2856252).

# Channel 4

**The Big Breakfast** (6/7/39).  
**The Bigger Breakfast** (7/8/4) & (22/85). **10.00** Catdog (3/28/24-1).  
**World** (3/80/582). **10.45** Moesha (9/1-10).  
**Biggie Breakfast** (3/55/852). **11.30** P.  
**12.00** Sesame Street (7). **9/40/5** 11.  
**(3/39/7)**, **1.00** Caroline in the City (8).  
**Gems** (3/39/4582). **1.35** The Three S

**Channel 4 Reaching** Brought Scott  
**Channel 4** 11.00

# Channel 5

**6.00 B News and Sport (S)** (5763405), **7.00 WheelWorld**  
 (R) (S) (T) (2613221), **7.30 Millionaire** (241897), **7.35**  
**Muppet Babies** (4832592), **8.00 Howlitzoo** (R) (S)  
 (R) (2612825), **8.30 DeepEndOn Farm** (R) (681186), **9.00**  
**Fame and Forlums** (R) (T) (6855719), **9.30 The Omen**  
**Wintry Show** (682572), **10.20 Sunset Beach** (S) (T)  
 (4025047), **11.00 Lanza** (R) (S) (370891), **12.00 5 News**  
 (at Noon) (S) (T) (6818242), **12.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T)  
 (683071), **1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** (S) (T)  
 (2812582), **1.30 The Housewife Show** (R) (S) (387392),

[illegible]

**12.45 Beautiful Things** (7047864) **12.25 Turning Points**  
(S) (82948469) **12.30 Working Lunch** (43723) **1.00**  
Watching a Thelma Houston (V) (760404)  
**2.40 Storyline** Grade (S) (88874573) **2.40 News**  
Regional News: Weather (8285929) **2.45 Weathercolor**  
(S) (6031757) **3.15 News** Regional News: Weather  
(6778683) **3.30 Call My Bluff** (776) **4.00 The Village**  
(7090336) **4.25 Raquel, Steady Cook** (7033405) **4.45**  
**Father (S)** (7) **Deep Space** (S) (897)

**5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.** Out the shape-  
shifters is tempted by an alien criminals offer to put him  
in touch with others of the kind (V) (S) (7) (740560)

**0.30 ITV Evening News Weather** (1) (728)  
**5.30 Videodisc: Memphis Taylor** with the band and "gonzo" from the pop world (5) (673)  
**5.40 London Tonight: Regional news update** capital and the South-East (1) (488)  
**6.30 ITV Evening News Weather** (1) (728)

**Friends.** Phoebe tries to be more fit than her half-brother, while Ross meets film star (F) (S) (7) (R89).

**3.20 FILM A Man Called Gannoy** (James Goldstone 8889 US). So-so western about a drifter who saves the life of a young runaway and gets involved in a ramp war. With Tony Franciosa and Michael Sarrazin (7056728).

**5.20 5 News Update** (89024573).

**5.30 100 Per Cent** (3) (8910779).

**6.00 5 News (Including First on Five, Kistv Young Is off News) (3) (8917688).**

**700 Watchdogs Are You Being Served?** Consumer grief about designer baggages and dinner sets that don't match. All that and John Inman's guide to dail packaging (S) (7) (9405).

**6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer.** Jolly import about the adventures of a 18-year-old girl who fights to rid the world of supernatural evil. A vampire launches an attack against the Slayer (S) (TV) (128009).

**7.00 Emeraldale.** Graham tries to control Paco drives a wedge between Kelly and Blir! (S)

**Channel 4 News Weather**, Inc.  
730pm (S) (T) (353/339).

**7.00 Knight Rider:** The chatty car is menaced by an invisible truck. (S) (T) (2927825).

**8.50 Harbour Lights.** This game-board drama series that sees Nick Bery looking moody and meaningful as a harbour master. This is the last of the series and it's not yet known whether there will be another, which doesn't sound too hopeful. Anyhow, it's Jane and Philip's last.

**5.00 Ray Mercer's World of Survival.** The local nomads Margolia, gleaming survival tips from the local nomads (R) (S) (T) (3467).

**8.00 The Bill.** "On the Road." Another hour-on in this one, Lennox and Reardon are sent to arrest a coroner who's accused of swindling businesswoman out of £30,000 (7) (6592).

**A-Z of Scotland.** From Perthshire the first tarten on the moon (#43869).

**Designs on Your... Car.** Designers and Dick Powell set out to redesign Daimler manufacturer Pivco's electric car. Pivco convinced (R) (S) (T) (734).

**72.730 Aussie Birds.** Wildlife documentary about the currumbong, a member of the peacocking Australian butcherbird family (S) (7) (9887/826).

**8,90 Points of View** (S) (T) (386383).  
**8,00 News Regional News Weather** (T) (54534).

**8.00 Goodness Gracious Me.** Commencing a double b of programmes that won gongs at the recent Royal Television Society Awards, an episode from the 1996 series of the Asian sketch show. (4) (5) (7) (43b).

**9.00 *The Last Train*, 3/6.** The story so far: A hit Zambia and the shockwaves have wiped the world's population. The characters in the were train passengers travelling beneath a Sheffield when the memoir hit. The lack of it

**First on Four.** Paul Whitehouse, Kate Winslet and Charlie Higson help to celebrate the comedy duo's first film. **Entitled (R)** (9486).

**3.00** **FILM** *Her Desperate Choice* (Michael Scott 1986 US). Coincidentally scheduled alongside tonight's *Disasters* report on violent fathers, this issue-driven telly drama stars Faith Ford as a mother who,

**9.35 Men Behaving Badly.** The one where Tony applies to be Gary's hairmate. (R) (S) (7) (8/12/22).

**10.00 They Think It's All Over.** Cine Anderson, Jo Brand and Steve Davis are the guests in the first show in a new series of the comedy sports quiz. (S) (7) (7/6/99).

**10.30 The Frank Skinner Show.** The award-winning

**Telegram.** Repeat of Thra Huds award-winning performance. See *Dianna of the Day*, below (R) (28047).

**10.00 *The Moresongs and Wise Show*.** From 1982, Eric and Ernie sing a modern-dress version of Cleopatra's death, and attempt some traditional Scottish music (T) (519347).

**10.00** **Tonight with Trevor McDonald.** Their healthily controversial start last week to this version of the long-running American news *60 Minutes*. Tonight, there's an investigation of nurses, an attempt to find the causes of

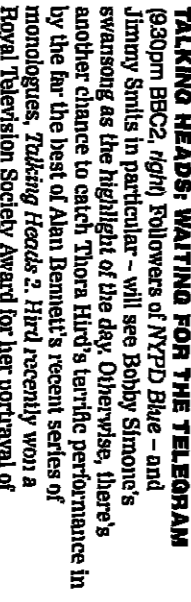
**SNYPPD Blue.** This is the episode where Snypops his clogs as Jimmy Smits bows a influential cop series. With one tailed m beard him, you have thought Smits a person, by now (N. T. 17762).

ex-husband, snatches the girl and goes on the road. Years later, when she has a new husband and a happy life, the *trait* of a credit card leads the authorities to her... (S) (T) (48060047).

(S) (T) (B5844).

**12.00** **GRACE** **Bopha!** (Morgan Freeman 1993 US). Powerful Hollywood movie examining apartheid-era South Africa from a black perspective. See *Film of the Day*, below (Then Weather) (5) (2) (4) (48).

**2.00** **Johns BBC News 24** (29928292). To Barn.



nonagenarian stroke victim Violet, stumbling over her words, but with powerful and erotic memories of the husband who never returned from the Great War.

## FILM OF THE DAY

**BOPHA** (Zandvoort BBC). There's something anarchistic about driving fast and open-topped motor cars over hills, we want the first moments to reflect life in Nelson Mandela's South Africa, there is Mopani Freemantle's historical detail from 1902, Hollywood's first real tale of the apartheid issue. *Dark* Glover plays a white politician in the Shastri Cape of 1960, convincingly evicted for his part in maintaining the status quo. But then the son he expects to join him in the police force becomes entangled in protests against the established regime. With Alire Woodard as Glover's wife, and Malcolm McInnes as a relatively new arrival as a radicalistic British officer.



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